



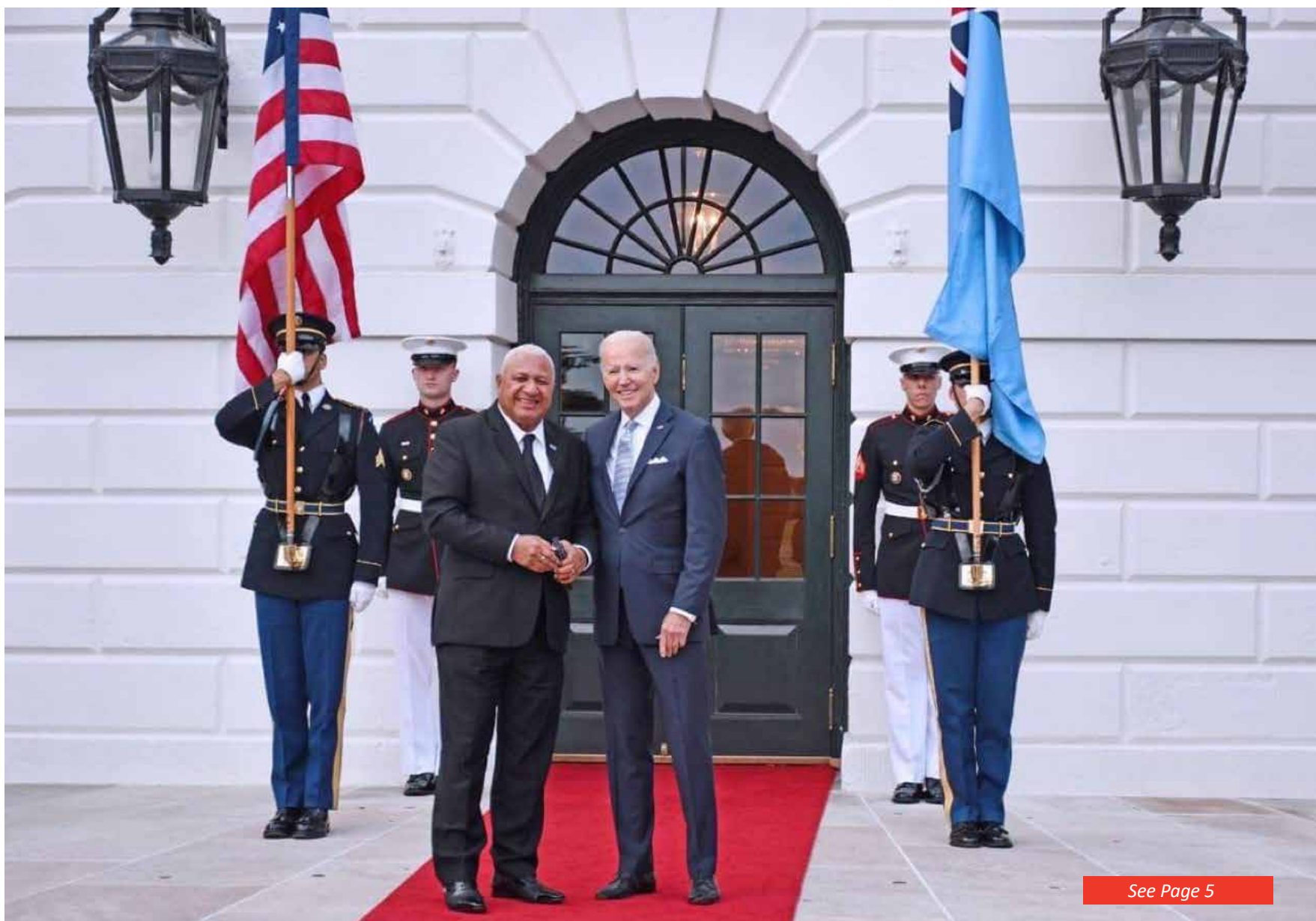
# THE US FIJI TIMES

World's Largest Fiji Newspaper Out Of Republic of Fiji

October 2022 Monthly Publication - Subscription Available Pages 56 Volume: 218

## Happy Diwali

### Fijian Prime Minister led Pacific Leaders in Historic and First Ever USA and Pacific Leaders Summit



See Page 5

### CANADIAN FIJI OPEN GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP 2022

SPONSORED BY WINGATE KAMLOOPS  
Report by Pramesh P Sharma

See Page 52





## THE US FIJI TIMES



PHONE: 650-762-6683  
DIRECT: 510-931-9107  
EMAIL: [INFO@USFIJITIMES.ORG](mailto:INFO@USFIJITIMES.ORG)  
WEB: [WWW.USFIJITIMES.ORG](http://WWW.USFIJITIMES.ORG)  
FACEBOOK: [USAFIJITIMESONLINE](https://www.facebook.com/USAFIJITIMESONLINE)



# Fijian Government



**William Katonivere-**  
**PRESIDENT**



**Frank Bainimarama**  
**PRIME MINISTER**



**Aiyaz Sayed Khayum**  
**ATTORNEY-GENERAL**



**Satyendra Prasad**  
**Ambassador | Representative**  
**of Fiji to the U.N**



**Luke Daunivalu**  
**Permanent Representative**  
**of the Republic of Fiji to the**  
**United Nations**



**Mr. Alika Cooper**  
**Fiji Trade Commissioner**  
**North America**



**Mr. Jay Singh**  
**Honorary Consul**  
**San Francisco U.S.A**



**Mr. Vinod K Bhindi**  
**Honorary Consul**  
**Los Angeles U.S.A**



**Mr. Bobby Naicker**  
**Honorary Consul**  
**Vancouver CANADA**

## THE US FIJI TIMES PROUD OF ITS SERVICE

The US Fiji Times is ranked as the top newspaper being published outside of Fiji for the Fiji American community and all over the world. The paper's popularity has grown immensely in recent years due to its critical approach in impressing the need for charitable organizations to rise up in all occasions to help Fiji and the people back home. Visitors from around the world have commended the paper on its stand to serve the community. The US Fiji Times understands that like in any other field, there is competition and competing with "The largest newspaper out of Fiji" has been a difficult task for newer publications. This is not because of its magnitude and coverage, but because of its stability and growth capabilities.

The writers of the paper comprise some of Fiji's best. Even though they are not too visible in social functions, they are taking up their challenges very effectively. The marketing strategy handles by our CEO/Publisher Mr. Rocky Ali is the hallmark of the papers current strength. Despite lacking the front line journalist experience, he makes up for the deficiency with the sheer ability to jeep the media wagon rolling. His insatiable love to be involved with the community to cherish in this very noble cause is worthy of higher recommendation. We have a very vibrant community, so despite the paper being issued free, the expectation of the community is very high. The coverage of all the major events is a mist for the paper and we feel

very proud to be associated with major organizations to see that their events are properly covered with pictures, stories and awareness via our social media platforms.

The paper is being also sent to countries like Fiji, NZ, Australia, Canada, England and Sweden for Fijians abroad to also get the feel of the luxuries of USA. The feedback has been overwhelming in this regard and it has become a trend for many organizations to rely on US Fiji Times in reaching the desired success with adequate coverage.

The paper will strive to serve the community with the best of its ability and assures the community that there will be quality reporting at all times. Vinaka – Rocky Buksh

[www.usfijitimes.org](http://www.usfijitimes.org)

We have noticed that some pictures that appear in the US Fiji Times have been reproduced in some other newspapers, magazines and web sites. Please note that all contents of the US Fiji Times are copyrighted and cannot be reproduced in any form without the permission of the US Fiji Times by contacting them at [info@usfijitimes.org](mailto:info@usfijitimes.org)





## *The BHINDI® Family*

would be honored to have you and  
your family celebrate with us

### Dhan Teras

Saturday, October 22nd 10.00 am to 9.00 pm

Sunday, October 23rd 11.00 am to 7.00 pm

### Diwali

Monday, October 24th 11.00 am to 7.00 pm

Wishing you and your loved ones a warm  
and prosperous Diwali and New Year

## FREE GOLD LAXMI STATUE



With minimum Jewelry purchase of \$950\*  
Available until November 2nd, 2022

\*Limited to one per household and family

\*See store for terms & conditions.

# BHINDI®

Shop online at [www.BHINDI.com](http://www.BHINDI.com)

## Diwali 2022

Los Angeles: 1809 Pioneer Blvd., Artesia, CA 90701 | San Francisco: 1344 Mariposa Hill Rd., Newark, CA 94560 | Atlanta: 1170 Oak Tree Rd., Decatur, GA 30033  
562-422-8735 | 360-797-8791 | 404-225-8728

ALL PROMOTIONS & TIMING ARE NOT APPLICABLE TO GLENDALE LOCATION



## News

## Sigatoka murder suspect remanded

A 24-year-old man charged with murder has been remanded in custody. Osea Mataitoga was initially summarily charged with two counts of murder together with one count of robbery.

The alleged murder took place on February 2nd, last year in a settlement near Lawai. Sesha Reddy and Mirdu Chandra were found dead in their home. Prosecution had applied for the whole matter to be transferred to the High Court, however this was denied due to the nature of how the charges were made. Magistrate Joseph Daurewa ruled that Mataitoga be given the decision to elect whether his case with its initial charges be transferred to the High Court or be heard in the Magistrates court. The accused has chosen to have his case heard in the Magistrates court. Daurewa further ruled that Prosecution sever or separate the charges and re-appear before the Magistrate for mention on Monday September 26th at the Sigatoka Magistrates Court.



YOUR ONE STOP INDIAN GROCER IN SAN BRUNO

# NEELAM PACIFIC MARKET



## News

# Fijian Prime Minister led Pacific Leaders in Historic and First Ever USA and Pacific Leaders Summit

In welcoming Pacific leaders to this first ever summit, President Biden thanked Fijian Prime Minister for his leadership of the Pacific Island Forum at such a challenging time.

President Biden released the first ever US Strategy for the

Pacific Islands and announced a new partnership with the Pacific region. This historic summit builds on nearly a year of diplomacy by Fiji's Prime Minister. In his role as chair of Pacific Forum, Prime Minister had invited President Biden to address

Pacific Forum leaders meeting last year. President Biden became the first US President to do so. This was followed by a visit by US Secretary for State Department, Antony Blinken to Fiji earlier this year. Vice President Kamala Harris then spoke

virtually to Pacific Leaders at the most recent meeting held in Suva in August.

Prime Minister Bainimarama described the Summit as not only historic; but one that will have hugely positive impacts on Fijian and Pacific Islanders

families for a long time to come.

Prime Minister held meetings at the Capitol Hill where he was hosted by Speaker Madam Nancy Pelosi and held discussions with US business's including Google, SpaceX and others.





## MESSAGE BY FIJI'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS, Dr Satyendra Prasad



Dr Satyendra Prasad  
Fiji's Ambassador and  
Permanent Representative to the  
United Nations, New York.

To US Fiji Times staff and families; to all your readers and well-wishers in the USA, Canada and elsewhere, very best wishes to you, your families and loved ones this Diwali.

May you find peace and much happiness this Diwali. May you and your families achieve great success and enjoy good health in the year ahead. May you continue to celebrate one

of our great festivals where-ever you may find yourself.

The timeless message of Diwali is so poignant this year. As we come out of lockdowns and the long tragic period of COVID; we know that there is morning light after a night – however long it may seem. We know that we will find comfort and joy when we once again celebrate with our families, loved

ones and with our communities.

So we once again mark Diwali's timeless and its global message of righteousness and hope. In this timeless way, we celebrate Diwali wherever we find ourselves – in California or Texas; in Calgary or Vancouver.

Diwali for many of us is a day when we reflect on our lives and

offer thanks for our own journeys; we reflect on our own struggles and achievements on our own journeys in life.

I hope in celebrations and the festivities, you will find time for such reflections; that you will find moments to share your journeys with children and grandchildren.

We in Fiji take greatest of pride in the success of Fijians across North America. I am

certain that many of you will connect with your loved ones in Fiji; across the World and share the joy and happiness that Diwali brings.

To your good health; to your success; a very happy Diwali to you and your families.

Satyendra Prasad and  
Kushma Ram  
New York,

## DIWALI GREETINGS !



Vinod K Bhindi

Consul General for The  
Republic of Fiji in Los Angeles

CEO Bhindi Jewelers

I extend my warmest greetings and best wishes to everyone celebrating Diwali, the Festival of Lights. Celebrated by millions of people around the globe, Diwali is a festival of distinctive significance, where people come together to celebrate light, life, and goodness.

It is a special moment for people of many faiths to cherish the good times and the fond memories of celebration with friends on this auspicious occasion of Diwali.

The word Diwali was inspired from a Sanskrit word Deepavali which literally translates to a "row of lit diyas"; hence it is known as the Festival of Lights. Hindus consider it to be the holiest day of the lunar month Kartik and celebrate it with great grandeur and excitement, with one of its core themes being joy over despair, triumph of light over darkness, and victory of

good over evil. It reaffirms our faith in the noble qualities that Lord Ram embodies.

According to our Hindu holy scriptures - the Ramayana, Diwali marks the return of the mythological God Rama, an avatar (incarnation) of Lord Vishnu, together with Goddess Sita, Lord Laxhman and Hanumanji to Ayodhya, their hometown, after spending 14 years exiled in the forest.

The people of Ayodhya welcomed Lord Rama and expressed their respect and joy by spotlessly cleaning their homes to welcome positivity. Lighting and decorating their homes with clay lamps known as diyas, that symbolize purity, good luck and power. It is believed that the presence of light drives away darkness and forces of evil.

Even today, the day begins with decorating our homes and offices with flowers, do-

ing Rangoli – the colored patterns drawn on the ground with colorful rice powder, followed by doing prayers and rituals together and finally setting off firecrackers. Inviting the near and dear ones to their homes for a sumptuous feast is an integral part of the Diwali celebrations.

Goddess Laxmi the mother of wealth, prosperity, love, beauty in her many forms is a crucial part of Diwali.

Every year, two days prior to Diwali, Dhanteras is celebrated with aplomb. Dhanteras also known as Dhantrayodashi, falls on the auspicious thirteenth lunar day of Krishna Paksha in the Hindu month of Kartik. It is traditional to buy gold, silver, metal utensils, and new clothes on this day, which symbolizes prosperity to welcome Goddess Laxmi.

Dhanteras pooja also has a special significance for ev-

ery businessman, wherein the blessings of Goddess Laxmi are sought for yearlong success and prosperity.

Diwali pooja follows Dhanteras and Goddess Laxmi is continuously worshipped, as it is believed that Goddess Laxmi visits each house and bestows her blessings with great wealth, prosperity love and beauty that the humans enjoy.

May the joy, cheer, mirth, and merriment of this divine festival surround you all forever. May the happiness that this festive season brings brighten life, and hope that the year ahead brings you luck and fulfills all your deepest dreams.

Happy Diwali,

Navi Saal Subh Aur Mangalme Ho

## Diwali Greeting from CEO/Publisher -Rocky Buksh



Rocky Ali Buksh  
CEO / Publisher

I would like to extend my hearty greeting to all the sponsors and readers on this Diwali

This period reminds me of the wonderful ways Diwali is celebrated in Fiji. This is by far the most looked forward day for all our Hindu friends. Family gathering and tea sessions are held

when the lights are lit with neighbors, families and friends. The business communities in taking

full advantage of the heavy pockets provides all that good-

ies to see that every Diwali become a memorable one.

The US Fiji Times in serving the community shares the feeling we are accustomed to. Naturally

we Fijians have a totally different way in bonding with each other when it comes to sharing and

enjoying religious festivals. Our feelings and flashbacks send us back to our mood irrespective of

our current habitat. So let us

feel free to enjoy this wonderful occasion with friends and families

and not to forget to send our share of love and gifts to our families back home and to donate

generously to the needy so that we feel the blessings of the almighty during this happy period also.

It is hope that in seeing this paper you do have get the 'deja vu' of true feeling of Fiji style celebration being carried out

at your back yard and send us pictures to give it memorable make

over with the compliments of your largest Newspaper published outside Fiji islands- THE US

FIJI TIMES.

On behalf of the Executive staff and all reporters I would like to extend a very Happy Diwali to

all our reads here and all over the world.



## Diwali Message



I wish to extend my greetings and best wishes to all on the auspicious occasion of Diwali to all those who are celebrating the festival of lights here in the United States, Fiji and around the world. For Hindus, Sikhs, and Buddhists, lighting of the lamp—the diya—is a chance

to remember, even amid darkness, that light will ultimately prevail. Knowledge will defeat ignorance, and compassion will triumph over despair. Diwali is the festival of victory of good over evil and light over darkness. Let us all together, celebrate this festival in a

clean and safe way and take a pledge to contribute to protecting the environment. The light of the lamp gives light to all without any discrimination - this is the message of Diwali. May Diwali be among your loved ones and may it connect everyone's hearts.

So, to all the families gathering this Diwali to reflect on all the blessings of the past year, my hope that this festival of lights brings happiness, prosperity and good fortune in your life. Wishing everyone a very Happy, Joyous Diwali and Prosperous New Year!

*Jay Singh – Honorary Consul Fiji  
(Based In San Francisco, CA)*



**Bobby Naicker**  
Fijian Honorary Consul

As we slowly get out of the pandemic that has affected every human being on the planet, this year is cause for some optimism. We can get back to gather with some normalcy. As we prepare to celebrate this most holy of festivals let's keep in mind those that have suffered the most. Let's reach out and help the most vulnerable in the spirit of unity amongst all being.

Let's pray that this pandemic is put behind us so that life gets back to as normal as can be expected. I think that everyone of us has either lost someone special in our lives due to the pandemic or know of someone who has. Diwali or Deepwali is a Hindu festival that is celebrated widely across India and the rest of the world. It is known as the festival of lights as

people celebrate this popular festival by cleaning their households, lighting and decorating their houses with lamps, candles and diyas. Diwali symbolizes the spiritual victory of light over darkness returning to good over evil or knowledge over ignorance. I pray to God that in this festival the God may illuminate our minds, enlighten our hearts and strengthen the hu-

man bonds to full strength and energy. May the warmth and splendor that are part of this auspicious occasion, fill your life with happiness and bright cheer and bring you joy and prosperity for the whole year. Happy Diwali from my family to yours. Sincerely,  
Fijian Honourary Consul

## Diwali Message from Pramesh Sharma - United States FIJI Golf Association



In honor of this year's Diwali, I would like to extend a heartfelt greeting to all on behalf of myself and my wife. This period reminds me of the wonderful ways in which Diwali is celebrated throughout Fiji.

Diwali is a very colorful event, literally and figuratively, that celebrates our culture's diversity. Each candle we burn and each of the sweets we consume signify love within our lives. Our prayers bring to the forefront the purity embedded in our daily lives.

So let us feel free to enjoy this wonderful occasion with friends and family. Do not take for granted the love and blessings we share. Please continue to extend that warmth and kindness generously to those in need, so all may feel the Almighty's blessings on this occasion.

Happy Diwali to All!

## Message from the Narendra Narayan



*Happy Diwali!*  
**Narendra Narayan**  
President/CEO, Innovative  
Circuits Engineering, Inc  
President, America-Fiji  
Sports Commission  
President, America Fiji Golf  
Club

I am pleased to send you my warm greetings and best wishes on the occasion of this spectacular and joyous Festival of Diwali. Diwali has been celebrated from time immemorial, and on a grand scale, not only in India but throughout the world.

Many legends have been associated with Diwali, and because of India's geographical and cultural diversity, the legends and practices have varied. However, the central theme of victory of light over darkness is common to Diwali celebrations everywhere.

The most widely accepted legend associated with

Diwali is the jubilation that followed the return of Lord Ram to the Kingdom of Ayodhya after 14 years in exile. In the story of Lord Ram's life, we find the true essence of the Diwali festivities. Ram destroyed the forces of darkness and ignorance prevailing at the time of his incarnation and brought about harmony and righteousness in people. Darkness and ignorance have always resided in human nature alongside the many virtues. Even today, we see major differences and divisions amongst people and, sometimes, even within members of the same family.

The true message of Diwali is to overcome the forces of darkness and ignorance that affect our lives and to live harmoniously and happily within our family and in the wider family of all communities and people. In the midst of the festivities and celebrations we can't fail to remember and pay tribute to our beloved family members and friends who are no longer with us. We will always be grateful to them for the role they played in our lives.

This Festival is also a good time to take stock of our lives and reflect on how much we care and do for the

less fortunate members of our family and the community. Let's continue to help the needy and bring happiness to everyone, including those who are suffering. Wish you all an enjoyable time at Diwali, and let's spread the spirit and happiness of the Festival as widely as possible. May the Divine Light of Diwali Shine in our Hearts and Life to Eternity and bring Peace, Happiness, Progress and Prosperity.



## NEWS

# Local Doctor Scores Big W.H.O Role

*Dr Alisha Sahukhan has been appointed by the World Health Organisation as a member of the panel of experts to review the International Health Regulations (IHR).*



Dr Alisha Sahukhan has been appointed by the World Health Organisation as a member of the panel of experts to review the International Health Regulations (IHR).

This was revealed by Minister for Health and Medical Services, Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete on the margins of launching the Lymphatic Filariasis Mass Drug Administration rollout in Labasa yesterday.

How are they appointed?

The Director-General of WHO appoints the members of IHR Expert Roster in accordance with WHO Regulations for Expert Advisory Panels and Committees except as otherwise

stated in the IHR.

The International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005 are a legally binding agreement of 196 countries to build the capability to detect and report potential public health emergencies worldwide.

The regulations require that all countries have the ability to detect, assess, report, and respond to public health events.

The incumbent contributes by correspondence of technical information on developments in his or her field, and to offer advice as appropriate, spontaneously or upon request. Dr Sahukhan is currently the Head of Health Protection. She was instrumental in the formation of

the COVID-19 Incident Management Team (IMT) which set up the framework and policies which led to the big COVID-19 vaccination implementation right to the opening of our international borders.

As a result, Fiji has seen strong economic recovery since our borders opened.

What it means for Fiji

Dr Waqainabete confirmed that this position would require Dr Sahukhan to travel to Geneva, Switzerland back and forth to attend meetings.

He credited the appointment as a recognition of the strength of the public health services offered in Fiji and the medical of-

ficers who put in the hard work to achieve this high status.

Dr Alisha's medical profession began in 2011 when she became a medical intern following the completion of her studies from the Fiji School of Medicine (now Fiji National University).

After four years in the medical profession in Fiji, Dr Alisha was Fiji's Fulbright Scholarship recipient.

This enabled her to study at the Emory University, Rollins School of Public Health in Atlanta, Georgia (for three years).

Upon returning in 2017, Dr Alisha took up the post of Acting National Advisor Communicable Diseases.

Dr Sahukhan's husband, a nephrologist, Dr Amrish Krishnan, said he was very proud of his wife's achievements.

Dr Mika Kama

Also given a big appointment in our health services, was Dr Mika Kama who is now the Medical Superintendent of Tamavua Twomey Hospital in Suva. "Dr Kama has really worked hard in that space and acting position and showed the qualities which allowed him to shoulder the responsibility and support the upgrades and gains the hospital had made over the years," Dr Waqainabete said.

**FIJI SEVENS**  
**GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP 2023**  
**LOS ANGELES**

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023 @ 8:30 am**

**Entry Fees: \$140 includes Skins Gross, Net Prizes. Dinner**

**Venmo your Fees: FIJI GOLF CLUB - PRAMESH SHARMA**



**Editorial-**

# USFT TO SPEARHEAD ESTABLISHMENT OF DISASTER COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT PM'S CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVES.

By Jayant Singh, San Francisco, CA.

US Fiji Times plans to embark upon a major community initiative that would trigger immediate relief work process in times of natural disasters hitting Fiji.

In light of the ever-volatile climate change effect plaguing the South Pacific region, a disaster awareness and response committee is being proposed by the largest media outside Fiji.

This will align with the Fiji's leading role in International climate change initiatives that its Prime Minister Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama also emphasized

at United Nations General Debate Session 77.

The US Fiji Times will spearhead this initiative that proposes to include various organizations in the Bay Area.

The finger pointing and distasteful outbreak on the lack of immediate response from many charitable organizations in the past has raised serious questions on our ability to answer to the needs of the people after a natural disaster strikes Fiji.

The idea is to bring many organizations under one umbrella to focus only on the relief efforts

that can be mobilized immediately.

It should be noted that that we live in a country that has all the resources to effectively mobilize a specially formulated disaster committee in times of emergency. It is just a matter of gathering some smart people of the community to brainstorm ways and means to get this going with absolute resolve.

We all have our birth right obligation to see that our motherland does not fade away in midst of the dangers the climate change pose on our nation.

Many nation Islands may have been weakened by the changing climate, but Fiji has undoubtedly stood tall to overcome its downfalls in recent time of natural disasters.

The people back home need immediate assistance and such action shall form the core purpose of this committee.

USFT is committed to see the establishment of this body that can carry forward the commitment our PM has made to the global leaders at UN to lead with examples for others to follow, despite our size and

resources being limited.

USFT will welcome favorable response to its call so that the community can work cohesively and figure out the best course of action to facilitate this project.

The proposed initiative includes establishment of "think-tank" committee initially to lay the platform and direction in this regard.

God bless Fiji



***Happy Diwali  
To All  
From Aartka Rao & Family  
of Seattle USA.***

## Diwali Message from Pundit Manik Chand

Diwali is the festival of lights. On this very auspicious day I would like to convey my greetings to all those have looked forward to this day. It is the day of great celebrations and we should all join hands and celebrates this event with love and affection. We have come a long way from home and we shall see that we continue to celebrate this with all our valor and affection.

We have to make our children believe that in celebrating events like this we are maintaining not only our culture but making them believe that people can be bone with festival like this.

Also let's not forget our elders on this day and our neighbors so that the festivity can be extended to a high level. I hope everyone will enjoy this day and wish



**Advertise In  
THE US FIJI TIMES**



## Fiji News

# HIS EXCELLENCY LAUNCHES THE REVITALISED HEALTHY ISLAND INITIATIVE IN BUA

The President, His Excellency, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere launched the revitalised Healthy Island Initiative in Kiobo Village, Bua yesterday (30/09/22). The Healthy Island initiative was established during the first Pacific Health Ministers meeting in Yanuca in 1995, with its vision of healthy living. His Excellency said there was a growing concern about the Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) mortality rate, and there was a need for community members to practice healthy living, to ensure longevity. Kiobo Village has been declared the first Health Promoting Village under the revitalised program. This initiative will be rolled out to other villages and communities in the other divisions.



## NEW BARBERSHOP TO BOOST INCOME GENERATION FOR NAKOROKULA YOUTH CLUB

Nakorokula youths received a hand-over of items for their new barber shop to boost income generation for the club. Minister for Youth and Sports, Parveen Kumar Bala highlighted that this assistance indicates the Fijian Government's commitment to youth development. "Today, as you receive the hand-over items, please bear in mind that this indicates how truly committed this Government is towards all forms of development. I want

to reiterate that you make full use of this assistance to help bolster your skills and talents and to strengthen your profile as a youth club in these surrounding areas." "Remember that you have my full support and that of the Ministry. We hope that this timely boost will go a long way in your activities and that you continue to contribute positively to your community," stated Minister Bala.



## PRESIDENT BIDEN HOSTS PACIFIC LEADERS AT WHITE HOUSE

The President of the United States of America, Joe Biden hosted the leaders of the Pacific Island Forum family for a dinner at the White House last night (30/09/22). President Biden said he was honoured to welcome and host the Pacific leaders in Washington for the first-ever US-Pacific Country Summit. He said we honour the history and value that our nations share and expand our cooperation in key areas that will benefit our people for years to come. President Biden thanked Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama for his

leadership of the PIF during a challenging time and welcomed the unity and solidarity of the PIF family. Prime Minister and Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum, Voreqe Bainimarama thanked President Biden for the warmest welcome to the White House; for excellent discussions at the historic summit, and for the enhanced partnership between U.S and Fiji and the Blue Pacific. Leaders present at the summit include the Prime Ministers of Samoa, Tonga, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and the Cook Islands. The U.S

President also announced substantial new and broadened engagements with Fiji and the Pacific; ranging from increased educational opportunities in the U.S; to collaboration on disaster response; to improved business and trade ties; and security cooperation. Prime Minister Bainimarama thanked his fellow Pacific leaders for a very constructive engagement throughout the summit and for showing the world that when united, the Blue Pacific is an oceanic superpower.





## Fiji News

# PM BAINIMARAMA HOLDS EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH US BUSINESS LEADERS INCLUDING SPACEX, GOOGLE, AND FedEx

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama has highlighted that Fiji has sought U.S. private sector investments in its growing economy which is at the heart of the Blue Pacific. Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, in a dialogue between Pacific leaders and US businesses, said that Fiji welcomes U.S. business interests and investments in key growth sectors including tourism, BPO, food, and agriculture, health, information technology, green technology, and manufacturing. The session, hosted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, was attended by Pacific leaders and senior U.S. Business executives, who discussed opportunities for job creation through cutting-edge investments targeted at well-educated and skilled workers in Fiji. The Prime Minister said that Fijian businesses also sought greater market access in the U.S. markets through partnerships with U.S. companies. He urged the U.S. Congress to fast-track the reauthorization of the Generalized System of Tariff Preferences with the addition of virgin coconut oil, sugar, fish, kava, mahogany,

and other products that can create tremendous value for our smallholder producers. At Government level, he highlighted that we are also actively seeking to open biosecurity pathways for essentials like wheat and other agricultural produce, as quickly as possible between Fiji and the USA. Whilst delving into Fiji's COVID-19 economic recovery efforts, Prime Minister Bainimarama said that our tourism sector rebounded from the pandemic with high visitor numbers. The total number of international visitor arrivals to Fiji in July 2022 was 78,638 and this represented 81% of visitor numbers when compared to July 2019. He added that the U.S. is one of Fiji's key source markets for tourism which had 42,002 visitors from January to August 2022 and accounted for 11% of Fiji's visitor arrivals. "My Government reforms have made doing business easier and cheaper. This includes the revision to the Investment Act and related regulations to modernise and lend flexibility to our investment framework," the Head of the Fijian Government re-



marked. "Furthermore, the new Act provides investors with a clear vision and the objectives of the Fijian Government and the responsibilities of all parties. For foreign investors to invest in Fiji, they now only need to register with the Registrar of Companies and complete tax registration, which can all be done online." Prime Minister Bainimarama added that the liberalization of our economy

has also created opportunities for Government outsourcing and investment opportunities in state-owned enterprises. "Fiji is the first Pacific Island Country that has been invited to be part of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework that aims to enhance the resilience and competitiveness of its partner countries. My Government has already weighed in on the Ministerial Statement following the exten-

sive technical discussions that have taken place." Fiji hopes to see more regular interaction with the U.S. to strengthen trade and investment ties between our people and businesses. At the session, Prime Minister Bainimarama also revealed that the Fiji Trade Commission, based in Burlingame, San Francisco, is fully operational and is available to U.S. businesses seeking opportunities in Fiji.

## NAKOROKULA YOUTH CLUB GRADUATES WITH AGED-CARE CERTIFICATION

About 40 members of the Nakorokula youth club graduated with Aged-Care Certification conducted by the Fiji National University in partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sports yesterday (30/09/22). The Minister for Youth and Sports, Parveen Kumar Bala, stated that the conduct of this training resulted from various interactions with members of the community and the Training Needs Analysis which identified the interest amongst youth in undertaking Care Giving Courses because of its potential employment opportunities locally and abroad. "We are reaching out to unreached youths through the provision of Mobile Skills Training to receive some form of certification, develop their skills and gain experiences." "Fijians are well known for aged care support in

many developed countries such as Australia, New Zealand, and the United States of America," said Bala. "The only reason we are identified and recognised in this field is that Fijians are well known for our patience as this type of work requires a lot of endurance," Minister Bala called on these youths to continue to further their training with recognised aged care institutions for employment opportunities, especially under the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility program, which currently has a demand for Fijian workers. The Youth and Sports Minister thanked the Fiji National University as the training facilitator for their continued support towards the development and empowerment of youths through the conduct of such training as a pathway for youth employability.





## Fiji News

## PM BAINIMARAMA ADDRESSES USA CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS AND CALLS FOR SOLIDARITY AND UNDERSTANDING

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama addressed the Bicameral Bipartisan Members of Congress at Capitol Hill in Washington yesterday (30/09/22), where he stressed that the Pacific looks to the U.S for solidarity and inspiration in tackling some of the gravest challenges the world faces now. Hosted by Speaker Ms Nancy Pelosi, he said that this visit was the largest gathering of leaders from the vast Pacific region in the American capital ever. Prime Minister Bainimarama, in his capacity as the Chair of the Pacific Island Forum, thanked the U.S for hosting the first-ever summit of Pacific Island leaders with President Biden, adding this was an important step up in the right direction. Speaking on the important issue of climate change, he said there is no science-based disagreement that can be made against the urgent need to reduce carbon emissions. "We are grateful for the priority President Biden has

given to the fight against climate change, and we are frankly thrilled to have American leadership once again in this fight. We need the United States to lead—to lead politically and to lead by example," he added. "As you carry forward your effort to build consensus or, lacking consensus, simply the effort to do what must be done by the majority, I want you to know that you have a friend in the South Pacific.

We use all the influence we can wield, and we will proudly work beside you to save this earth." The Prime Minister conveyed his sincere thanks to the representatives and senators who have helped to keep a focus on the Blue Pacific alive in both these houses. "We truly appreciate their efforts and value your solidarity with us while balancing other pressing priorities. "I have a final thought to share. Some of the Pacific Island's countries are barely 30 years old. Fiji's new democracy



is only eight years old. We have a lot to learn from you and your institutions. I would like to encourage far greater and more systematic interaction between parliaments in the Pacific and

these two chambers," concluded PM Bainimarama. Speaker, Ms Pelosi thanked Prime Minister Bainimarama for his leadership of the PIF family and said that their visit to Capitol Hill will

help to further strengthen solidarity with the Pacific in both houses. She assured the Prime Minister that U.S support for the Pacific cuts across both parties.

## PACIFIC SEEKS PARTNERSHIP WITH US IN CLIMATE ACTION

The Pacific's greatest concern is not geopolitics or power politics, it is climate change, pure and simple. This was the strong message delivered by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama during the "Discussion on Climate Action, Climate Resilience and Clean Energy Transformation" session at the first-ever US-Pacific Country Summit in Washington D.C. yesterday (30/09/22). The session co-chaired by the US President's Special Envoy on Climate, Mr John Kerry, and Special Envoy on Biodiversity, Deputy Secretary Monica Medina brought together Pacific leaders and senior representatives to discuss a shared approach to the climate crisis. "We simply have not been able to engage in good faith with the U.S.A without America taking its rightful place at the helm of the global climate action campaign. Any backward steps now or in the years to come will be a step away from America's place in the Pacific,"

Prime Minister Bainimarama said. "With time running out fast, we need urgency and ambition." Since 2016, the 14 Pacific SIDS have received \$500 million of available climate finance. For this, the Prime Minister said that is zero-point six percent of the global climate finance and a negligible amount compared to the existential climate threat. In his capacity as the Chair of the Pacific Island Forum, Prime Minister Bainimarama requested the Biden Administration to help us meet four priorities which are to meaningfully help us advance the dialogue on Loss and Damage and establish a dedicated funding mechanism to support it. "Also, with your developed country counterparts, deliver on the \$US 100 billion climate finance pledge, and commit to \$750 billion in the post-2025 financing framework, with at least 5% reserved for the Pacific SIDS," he further remarked. Additionally, the Prime Minister

said that "through USAID and your leadership on the GCF and other climate funds, fund, and scale our efforts to link climate action and economic development". "We have miles and miles of seawalls that we need to build, over 40 communities we need to relocate, and a network of national infrastructure to make more climate resilient. With my fellow Pacific leaders, we are trying to decarbonize regional and domestic shipping," he added. "This would protect our oceans and vital fishing ecosystems, revolutionize our infrastructure to fit the 21st century, and transform our regional connectivity. Our recently launched National Climate Finance Strategy includes specific climate-related projects across every sector of our economy, from human health and gender to agriculture and energy. They all need the technological, technical, and financial expertise that the U.S can provide." "Finally, through the U.S's leadership at



the MDBs, including the IMF, push for structural reforms to the outdated financial frameworks that further punish us for climate events and don't help us finance much-needed climate investments." The Prime Minister said that these reforms include a more holistic assessment of GDP, and the debt-to-GDP ratio, that incorporates a country's climate vulnerabilities, efforts to address the challenge, and climate-related debt. It includes debt-for-nature swaps that help

us invest in ambitious climate adaptation without risking our debt sustainability. At the session, the US Assistant Secretary for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Ms Monica Medina announced a series of initiatives that the US will be taking to build capacity and this includes improving climate forecasting and also strengthening cooperation in the region and the US institutions, working on oceans and climate change.



## Fiji News

# PRESIDENT BIDEN ADVANCES A FAR-REACHING COOPERATION FRAMEWORK WITH THE BLUE PACIFIC AT THE FIRST-EVER US-PACIFIC SUMMIT

The President of the United States of America, His Excellency, Joseph Biden Jr, has made announcements that have fundamentally transformed U.S and Pacific relations. He launched the first-ever U.S strategy for the Pacific Islands that has at its heart, support for the Pacific's own 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy. He announced the appointment of a special envoy to the Pacific Island Forum to take forward the U.S's enhanced commitments to the region. The U.S President, while delivering his inaugural address at the U.S-Pacific Country Summit in Washington yesterday (30/09/22), announced an increase of USD \$810 million of additional support to take forward these new commitments by the U.S. President Biden said that these far-reaching commitments honour the deep history of the Pacific Islands and the U.S and also promote our longstanding trade and diplomatic relationships. He said the summit is about deepening our enduring commitment to each other and our shared future and our commitment to tackling the climate crisis, which threatens all of us. "We're also committed to working together to equitably rebuild the global economy in the wake of COVID-19 and Russia's war to ensure an Indo-Pacific region that's free and

open, one that is stable and prosperous, and resilient and secure," he said. "A great deal of the history of our world is going to be written in the Indo-Pacific over the coming years, and decades." President Biden said that the Pacific Islands are the critical voice in shaping that future. "That's why my administration has made it a priority to strengthen our partnership with your countries and with the Pacific Islands Forum," he added. The first-ever U.S-Pacific Country Summit also builds on growing high-level engagements with Fiji and the Pacific. This included President Biden's address on the invitation of PIF Chair, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama to the Pacific Island Forum last year, making him the first-ever U.S President to address the Pacific Island Forum (PIF). It also included U.S Secretary of State, Mr Antony Blinken's visit to Fiji and then followed by Vice President Kamala Harris's engagement with the recent PIF leaders meeting held in Suva. In taking forward this enhanced engagement with the Pacific, The White House launched the Partners in the Blue Pacific initiative earlier this year. In his response, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama said that climate change was the centrepiece of Fiji, Blue Pacific,



and the U.S's enhanced cooperation framework. Further to the announcements by President Biden, he said the U.S has also committed \$130 million in new investments to support climate resilience and build sustainable blue economies in the Pacific Islands; prepare for climate impacts on public health and food security, and to strengthen sustainable development; and to build a better early warning capacity to predict, prepare for, and respond to climate hazards. He said that this is going to build on approximately \$375 million in climate programmes the U.S currently has in the region. "We're also taking several important diplomatic steps and I'm

proud to announce that, following appropriate consultations, we will recognise the Cook Islands and Niue as sovereign states." The U.S President, at the same time, reaffirmed the U.S's commitments to the Pacific in strengthening our ties and working together in certain areas of shared collaboration. Speaking on behalf of the Pacific leaders, Prime Minister Bainimarama said the Blue Pacific met the U.S as an oceanic superpower. "At every level, our people and my Government hope for a direct, broad, and comprehensive partnership with the USA," he said. "Our shared prosperity depends on peace and security across a connected Indo-Pacific and it

depends on securing emissions cuts in line with the 1.5-degree target. America is not there yet. We ask you and the American people for that commitment." At the same time, Prime Minister Bainimarama welcomed the US Pacific Strategy. "We welcome U.S investment, partnerships including with the private sector, and closer maritime security. Most of all, we welcome America back to the Blue Pacific." The Prime Minister thanked the U.S Government for the broadest possible engagement throughout the summit having made much progress on deepening trade, tourism, education, security, and other areas of co-operation.

## FIJI AND PIF TO EXPAND MARITIME COOPERATION WITH THE U.S

Leaders of the Pacific and senior representatives attending the US-Pacific Country Summit in Washington D.C were hosted to a dinner at the U.S Coast Guard. The leaders were received by the Commandant of the U.S Coast Guard, Admiral Linda L. Fagan, at the U.S Coast Guard Headquarters. Extensive discussions were held on broadening partnerships with Fiji and the Pacific region, and the U.S in maritime cooperation.

The Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama is hopeful that the region will be further assisted by the U.S Coast Guard in improving surveillance and

information sharing between Pacific states. Illegal fishing is a growing problem across the Blue Pacific and leads to annual losses that have grown to several hundred million dollars per year. Small Island States with limited naval and other surveillance capabilities face considerable challenges in managing their large waters and monitoring activities on the high seas, including narcotics and other illicit activities. Prime Minister Bainimarama thanked the United States for its solidarity with the region and welcomed the increased cooperation between the U.S and the Pacific region. Earlier, he commented



that there was considerable scope for growing partnerships

between the U.S and the region to further improve the moni-

toring and surveillance of our waters in the Pacific.



# BOLLYWOOD FASHION

*Fashion designer with over 3 decades in this business*



**Festival  
Season  
SALE**

**Dress Sale  
( Starting \$40)**



**SPECIALS**  
**LEHENGA'S & GOWNS**  
**Starting at \$100**  
Limited Stocks

**BEAUTIFUL CLOTHING FOR EVERY OCCASION!**

BRIDAL WEAR  
DESIGNER SALWAAR  
DESIGNER SAREES  
CUSTOM DESIGNER WEAR  
DESIGNER KURTA PAJAMA

MENS SHERWANI  
LEHNGAS  
KIDS PARTY WEAR  
IMITATION JEWELRY  
SHOES

## HOURS

**TUESDAY- SUNDAY**  
**11 AM - 6:30 PM**

COVID COMPLIANCE

**650-871-8446**

**616 SAN MATEO AVE,  
SAN BRUNO CA 94066**



“We are to unlock the full potential of our young people by providing them with the right support.” These were the sentiments of the Minister for Youth and Sports, Parveen Kumar Bala while closing a two-day Screen Printing and Tie & Dye training for 40 participants in Tavua yesterday (29/9/2022). “I have always believed that every individual is great at something. Everyone has skills, personality, and experience that deserve to be discovered and nurtured”, said Minister Bala. “They need to be surrounded by positive thoughts that uncover their hidden potential and capabilities. Support at all levels is crucial

for an individual to excel in life". Minister Bala added that young people are at the forefront of change and innovation. However, this is only possible by giving them space to excel and making things happen. He encouraged youth graduates as masters of the future that whatever they do and how they do it will determine what they would become. The training participants conveyed their appreciation to the Government of the day for their continued support and initiatives to foster young people to create opportunities to generate income for sustainable living.



Fiji was awarded the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Council President Certificate in a special ceremony at the 41st Session of the ICAO Assembly. The ICAO Council President Certificate (Certificate) was established in 2015 to support the ICAO's "No Country Left Behind" initiative. This Certificate is awarded to Member States based on results determined through the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) to recognise Member States that have made

significant progress in resolving their safety oversight deficiencies and improving the effective implementation (EI) of their safety oversight systems in compliance with ICAO Standard and Recommended Practices (SARPs). The eligibility criteria used for this recognition certificate are based on the results of USOAP Continuous Monitoring Approach (CMA) activities and include: (i) improvement in the EI of the critical elements (CEs) of a State's aviation safety oversight system

above 15 per cent; (ii) meeting the Global Aviation Safety Plan target of at least 75 per cent EI; and (iii) the absence of a Significant Safety Concern. In 2019, following the ICAO In-Country Validation Mission, Fiji improved its EI from 60.55% to 76.3% sitting above the Asia Pacific average of 64.6% and the Global average of 67.5%. The 41st Session of the Assembly of the ICAO will run from the 27th September to 07th October 2022.



## A yellow excavator is positioned on a dirt road, working on a large pile of dirt. The scene is set in a tropical environment with lush green hills and palm trees in the background. Two workers are visible on the left side of the road, and another worker is on the right side. The excavator is in the process of moving or shaping the dirt pile.

The burden of carrying farm produce, the sick, and the challenges of crossing the Wainimala river countless times, just to access transportation on the main road will soon be a thing of the past for the people of Tikina Noemalu, in the province of Naitasiri. This, is due to the construction of a new access road by the Fijian Government. During a recent visit to the construction site, Minister for Infrastructure and Meteorological Services, Jone Usamate, said the works that are being carried out are all part of the Government's belief that no one should be left behind. "Government received numerous requests from villagers of Tubarua, Nasauvere and

Matawailevu village to provide a preliminary alignment and concept design for a proposed new access road to their villages,” said the Minister. “This new road extends from the existing road at Korovou village, which is the last village connected with the FRA rural road network and will connect three villages upriver and will cover a total of 9.28 kilometres.” The Minister, however, said that road construction in hilly terrain is risky and challenging as it deals with proper survey and investigation for alignment, formation, subbase, materials, equipment, subgrade layers, curve decisions, and the need selection of correct equipment, as and when

necessary during construction considering the tangible and intangible aspects to optimise the benefits within the limited availability of resources. Minister Usamate further said that the development work is all part of the Government's commitment to bring accessibility to roads for all the communities around the country. The road will serve approximately 80-100 households and is a major infrastructure development that will aid in transporting produce to the market and provide ease of access to medical and other basic needs. The estimated cost of improvement works is \$284,206.56, with the project scheduled for a duration period of 4 months.

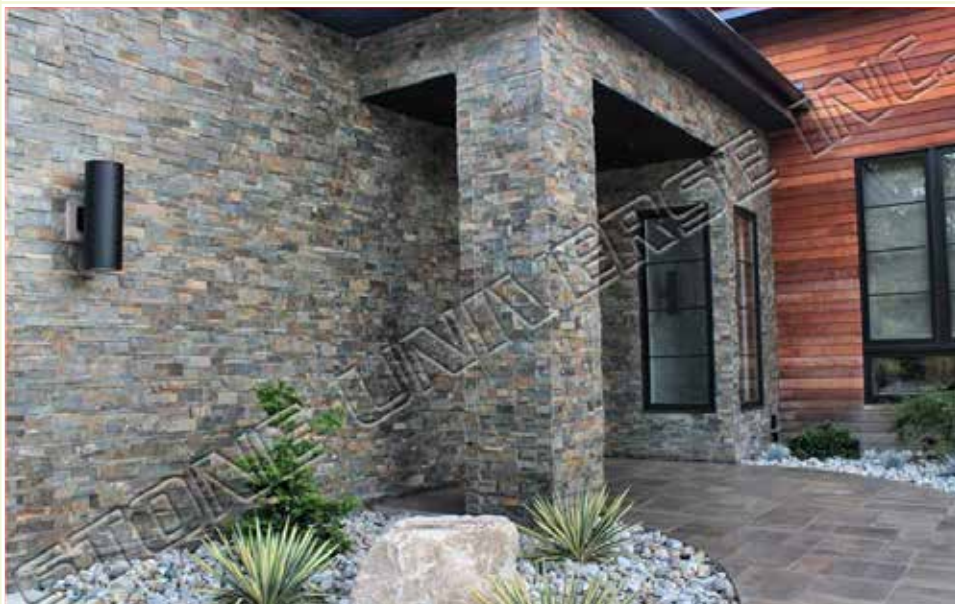




**WHOLESALE  
SUPPLIER OF  
NATURAL STONES**

**HEAD OFFICE IN  
CALIFORNIA**

**6 DISTRIBUTION  
CENTER**



**STONE UNIVERSE INC.**

**NATURAL STONE**

**PHONE: 510-278-8303 | 510-377-1264**





# STONE UNIVERSE INC. NATURAL STONE



Shubh  
*Diwali*



**WWW.SUISTONE.COM**

**PHONE: 510-278-8303 | 510-377-1264**



**FFS**  
**FIJI FREIGHT SYSTEMS**  
We Connect You To Your Families

**FREIGHT FORWARDING SERVICES**

Send Your Bags and Boxes to Fiji Today!!!

**CALL US FOR AN ESTIMATE TODAY**

**No Weight Restrictions**  
**No Worries, No Hassle**

Shamil Prakash  
510-329-8943

23839 Connecticut Street, Unit 4  
Hayward CA 94545

**BAYSTAR SECURITY PATROL**

**UNINFORMED GUARDS - PATROL - ALARMS  
INVESTIGATION  
LICENSED - BONDED - INSURED**

423 Broadway #402, Millbrae, CA 94030  
PH: 650-259-7661 Fax: 650-259-9228  
eMail: info@baystarpatrol.com



# SAUDAGAR CASH AND CARRY

28700 Mission Blvd, Hayward CA - 510-885-0430

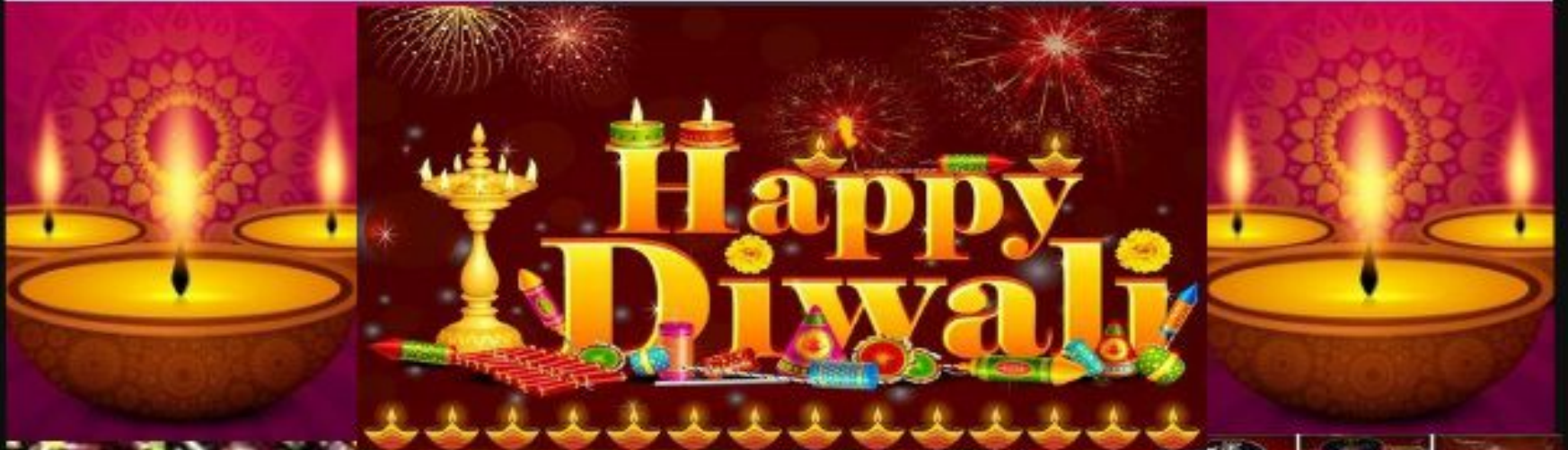


**PHONE: 510-885-0430**



# SAUDAGAR CASH AND CARRY

28700 Mission Blvd, Hayward, CA



Visit us today for your Diwali Shopping

**510-885-0430**

TOP QUALITY  
HALAL NZ LAMB,  
CHICKEN, DUCK,  
FIJI FISH, CRAB,  
SHRIMP & MUCH  
MUCH MORE!



# HAPPY DIWALI



COME DISCOVER FRESHNESS, QUALITY & VALUE  
EXCLUSIVE DIWALI ITEMS, SWEETS & GIFTS

## SAUDAGAR CASH & CARRY

28700 MISSION BLVD, HAYWARD CA 94544 | 510-885-0430

We wish you and your family a very happy & prosperous DIWALI!



**SUNTECH**  
INTEGRATED SOLUTIONS, INC



Set up a powerful WISP Network  
**Customize your IT operations**  
Building-to-Building Bridge XG



**Mike Muktar Buksh**  
CEO / Founder  
**SUNTECH**

 [www.suntechis.com](http://www.suntechis.com)





# FIJI, OH SO EASY!



FULLY  
VACCINATED



TRAVEL  
INSURANCE



PRE-DEPARTURE  
RAPID TEST



PRE-BOOKED  
RAPID TEST

BOOK NOW AT [FIJIAIRWAYS.COM](https://www.fiji-airways.com)



**FIJI**  
AIRWAYS



connect

 Tourism Fiji



# LAW OFFICE of JASON MARCHI



Family  
Immigration

Non immigrant  
visa

Asylum

Appeals

Deportation

Naturalization

Immigration  
related  
matters

Removal  
Defense

Personal  
Consultation

Get answers to all your immigration questions.  
**Free Consultation**

**415-556-3526 | JMARCHI@AOL.COM**

# LAW OFFICE OF DAVID W. WASHINGTON

Former Sergeant, Detective

**Family Law**

Divorce

Probate

Restraining Order

Child Support

Guardianship

DUI

Criminal

Felony

Misdemeanor

Bankruptcy



**David  
Washington**

**CALL US  
NOW!**



**415-269-2627**





**ELDORADO**  
COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTERS

**YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD MEDICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH CENTER**

Primary Care • Family practice • Gynecology • HIV/AIDS & STD testing  
Gastroenterology • Pain management • Therapy • Psychiatry

**SERVING**

**Bay Area | Los Angeles | Kern County | San Diego**

**SEE WHAT YOUR NEW HEALTHCARE TEAM CAN DO FOR YOU**

**1-877-557-7826**

**[WWW.AMERICANHEALTHSERVICES.ORG](http://WWW.AMERICANHEALTHSERVICES.ORG)**



# FIJI SWEETS & SNACKS



**Happy Diwali**

**Indian  
Masala  
Tea**  
99¢



**REAL TASTE  
BA STYLE**



**FIJI FAMOUS  
QUALITY TASTE  
INDIAN SWEETS**



**ALL KIND OF CATERING  
OR PARTIES**



**510-200-9535**  
29605 Mission Blvd,  
Hayward CA



# Fiji Sweets & Snacks

Sacramento, Branch

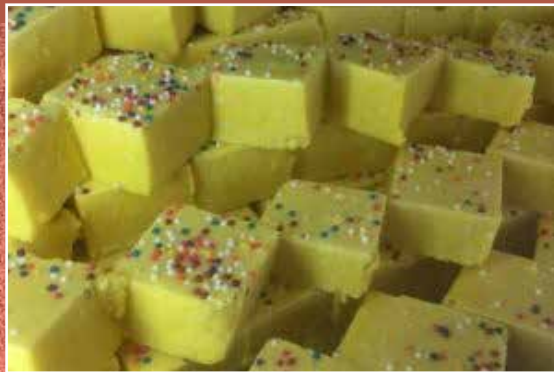
6741 Stockton Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95823

## Happy Diwali

**916-400-4573**

2 Locations

Sacramento & Hayward





# NEE

## PACIFIC MARKET &

### WISHES ALL VALUED CUS

#### GENERAL GROC



#### HUGE SELECTION



#### happy diwali

### FROZEN FOOD, FRESH PRODUCE, KAVA, FI



# DIWALI

## FASHION SAN BRUNO

### WELCOME EVERY CUSTOMER A HAPPY DIWALI

EVERY OUTLET *INDIAN, PAKISTAN, FIJIAN, TONGAN GROCERIES*



DIYA



POTS

ON OF MURTIS

Happy  
Diwali



SHIV LING

DI GHEE, ALL POOJA ITEMS & MANY MORE..





# STONE UNIVERSE INC. NATURAL STONE

Natural Stone, Porcelain Pavers, Travertine & Much More!



## About Stone Universe

Stone Universe Inc being a Wholesaler Supplier of Natural Stone defines the style in Landscaping and Hardscaping industry since 1999. We carry trend-setting Natural Stone from India & other countries, Porcelain Paver from Spain and Travertine collection from Turkey. Our motive is to fetch the people with the customized product range where quality speaks itself & rates are highly affordable.

## Get in touch

North California | South California | Washington | Maryland | Texas | Wisconsin



Call :- 510-278-8303

Fax :- 510-278-8606

[www.suistone.com](http://www.suistone.com)

## Our Product Line

- Pool Coping
- Paver Flooring
- Flagstone
- Slab
- Step
- Pebbles
- Thin Veneer
- Stepping Stones
- Ledgerstone
- Cobblestones
- Cap Stone
- Porcelain paver





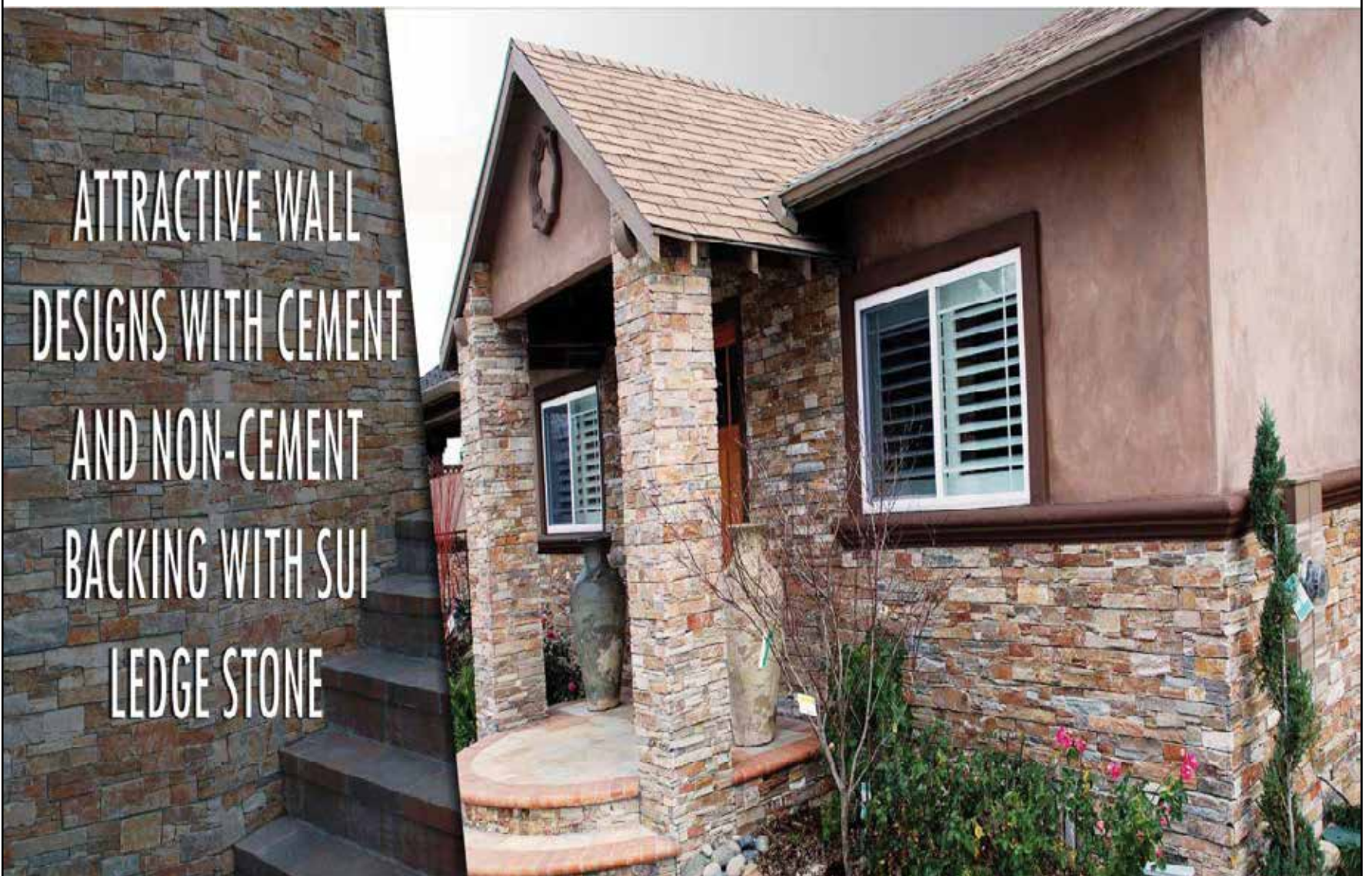
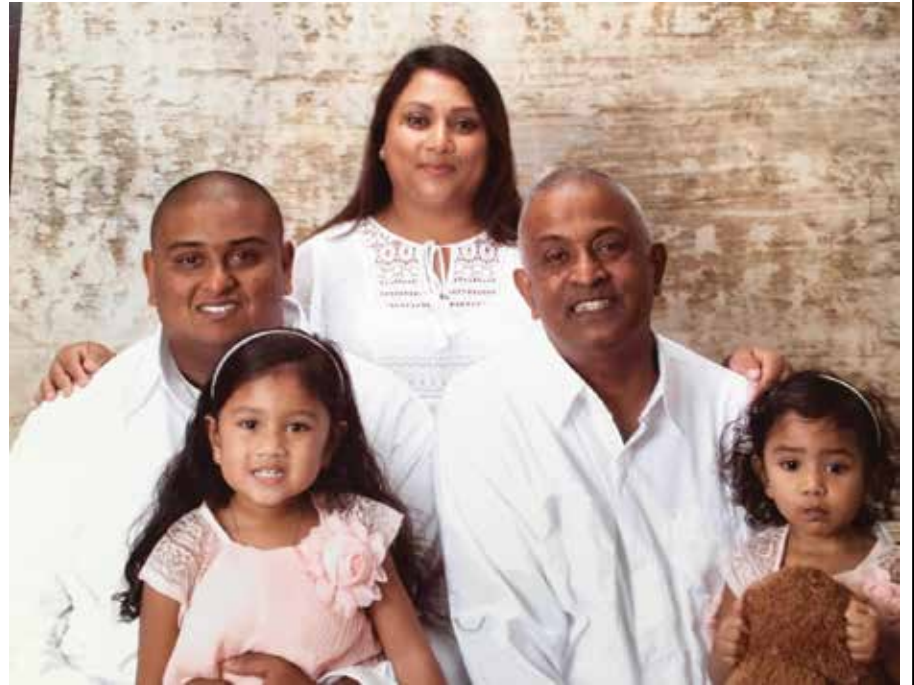


# STONE UNIVERSE INC.

## NATURAL STONE

Wholesale Distributors

Happy Diwali  
from my family  
to yous !!



[www.suistone.com](http://www.suistone.com) Email : [stone@suistone.com](mailto:stone@suistone.com)

Phone: 510-278-8303 Cell: 510-377-1264





# STONE UNIVERSE INC.

## NATURAL STONE

Wholesale Distributors



**LATE MRS. DAMYANTI NAIR**

**Wife of Raghwa Nair of Nair Investments**

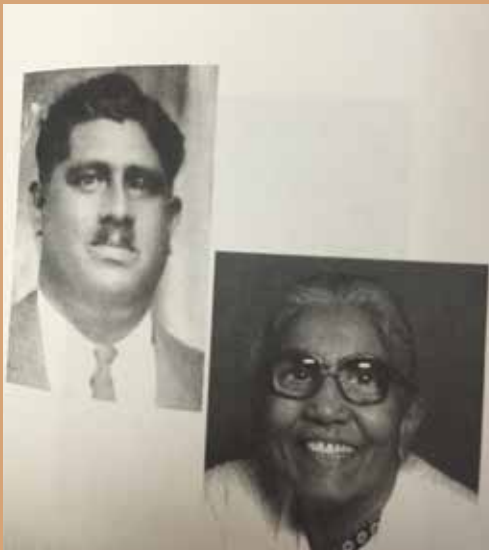
Always remembered by her 6 grandchildren, 3 sons,  
3 daughter-in-laws, 1 daughter and 1 son-in-law.



**LATE MR. RAGWAN NAIR**

**Father of Vinay Nair of Nair Investments**

Always remembered by his 6 grandchildren, 3 sons,  
3 daughter-in-laws, 1 daughter and 1 son-in-law.



**LATE MR NARAYAN NAIR  
AND**

**LATE MRS LATCHMI NAIR**

**Parents of Raghwa Nair of Newark CA**

Sadly missed by all family members of entire Nair  
family in Fiji Canada, Australia and USA



**LATE MR. GOPAL NAIR  
AND**

**LATE MRS. PARUKUTI NAIR  
OF TAVUA TOWN**

**Grand Parents of Vinay Nair of Gilroy, CA**

Sadly missed by all the grandchildren of the Nair  
Family - Sons, Daughters, son-in-law  
and great grand children  
residing in USA and overseas

[www.suistone.com](http://www.suistone.com) Email : [stone@suistone.com](mailto:stone@suistone.com)

Phone: 510-278-8303 Cell: 510-377-1264



# NAIR INVESTMENTS CORPORATION

## INVESTORS OF COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

*Happy Diwali*  
*From Nair Family To All*



VINEET RAGHWAN NAIR







# Shingar

## Emporium

Exclusive Fashion & Jewelry  
From India

# Happy Diwali

28521 Mission Blvd. Hayward, CA 94544  
(510) 537-6960

1026 Mc. Henry Ave. Suite 8, Modesto, Ca  
(209) 236-0334

157 Great South Rd., Papatoetoe 2025,  
Auckland, New Zealand 09-2158755

# MOON INDIAN CUISINE

**MOON**  
INDIAN CUISINE  
INDIAN FIJI PAKISTANI  
CUISINE

*Most Affordable rates and prompt service:*



Address : 600 West Harder Road Hayward, CA 94544  
Open Daliy from 11AM - 10PM PH: (510) 780 - 9233  
[www.moonindiancuisine.net](http://www.moonindiancuisine.net)



CHEF PAUL

*Over 30 Years of Experience in Resturant  
& catering Business.*



# WINGS

PROUD TO SUPPORT

## AMERICAN FIJI SPORTS COMMISSION

== PACIFIC CUP 2022 ==



# food • drinks • sports

 WINGSRestaurantsandPubs

 great\_wings

[greatwings.ca](https://www.greatwings.ca)



Drug testing is an effective tool to protect your work place from the negative effects of drug and alcohol abuse.

#### Services Include:

- Substance Abuse and Drug Testing Policy
- Supervisory Training
- Employee Education and Awareness Program
- Employee Assistance Program
- Drug Treatment Therapy
- Drug Testing
- Background Checks

#### Types of Testing:

Include, but not limited to:

- Pre-Employment
- Random
- Post-Accident
- Probable Cause
- Return to Work

Drug Free Work  
Environments Promote

»SAFETY«  
»PRODUCTIVITY«  
»ACCOUNTABILITY«

#### Convenient Locations

- **Azusa**  
472 S Citrus Ave. Azusa, CA 91702
- **Bakersfield**  
1010½ S Union Ave. Bakersfield, CA 93305
- **Hawaiian Gardens**  
21617 Norwalk Blvd. Hawaiian Gardens, CA 90716
- **Hollywood**  
5015 W. Pico Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90019
- **Inglewood**  
4450 W. Century Blvd. Inglewood, CA 90304
- **Lawndale**  
4023 Marine Ave. Lawndale CA, 90260  
14611 Hawthorne Blvd. Lawndale, CA 90260
- **Long Beach**  
2272 Pacific Ave. Ste A Long Beach, CA 90806  
100 E. Market St. Long Beach, CA 90805
- **Palmdale**  
2720 E. Palmdale Blvd. #128-9 Palmdale, CA 93550
- **Pico Rivera**  
5200 San Gabriel Pl. Ste C Pico Rivera, CA 90660  
8207 Whittier Blvd. Pico Rivera, CA 90660
- **Santa Clarita**  
24625 Arch St. Newhall, CA 91321
- **Van Nuys**  
6265 Sepulveda Blvd. #9&10 Van Nuys, CA 91411
- **Venice**  
717 Lincoln Blvd. Venice, CA 90291



For More Information  
**877-557-7826**  
[www.drugtestingclinic.org](http://www.drugtestingclinic.org)

Discounted pricing available



Because addiction is not a life sentence



Addiction to heroin, painkillers, and other opioids is a medically treatable condition.

**OVER 23 CLINICS SERVING**  
**Bay Area | Los Angeles | Kern County | San Diego**

**SEE WHAT OUR ADDICTION SPECIALISTS CAN DO FOR YOU!**

**I-877-557-7826**

**WWW.AMERICANHEALTHSERVICES.ORG**

*Take control<sup>®</sup>*

*Suboxone & Methadone Treatments can help you get back on track.*





# San Mateo Services

Your Neighborhood Auto Shop

501 S. Norfolk Street  
San Mateo, CA 94401  
(650) 344-7811 / (650) 219-7995

## We Specialize In:

- » Smog Check
- » Oli Change
- » Frame Staightening
- » Fiber Glass Work
- » Perfect Color Matching
- » Foreign & Domestic
- » Engine & Transmission
- » Brakes & Tune - Ups
- » Custom Bodywork



# Shoreview Service Station

335 South Norfolk Street  
**650-281-8582**

By : Atendra Singh and  
Vince Singh

**All major credit  
cards accepted**



# LAW OFFICE OF DAVID W. WASHINGTON

FORMER SERGEANT, DETECTIVE



- Criminal Defense
- Family Law - Divorce
- State & Federal Cases
- Felony & Misdemeanor
- Restraining Orders
- Bankruptcy

**Call Today: 415-269-2627**



## KAVA EXPRESS

*Natural Relaxation, fresh Quality Kava  
brought to You direct from  
the South Pacific Islands  
Savu Savu, Fiji*

Waka



Lawena



**www.kavaexpress.com**

**510.755.7625**

**info@kavaexpress.com**

Sashi Prakesh

**23839 CONNECTICUT STREET, UNIT 4 • HAYWARD, CA 94545**

*We Design & Print • 510-512-2357  
Specializing in Wedding Cards*



## Fiji News

# FIJI'S PRIME MINISTER AND PACIFIC LEADERS MEET AT U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT TO DEEPEN US-PACIFIC RELATIONS

Leaders of the Pacific Island Forum family convened at the U.S. Department of State for the opening of the first-ever US-Pacific Island Country Summit in Washington today (29/09/22). Chair of the Pacific Island Forum Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, while delivering his address, said this week will be the most significant engagement between the Pacific Islands Forum and the United States in this generation. Prime Minister Bainimarama said that the fact that Pacific leaders will be sharing a room with the U.S. President and the entire machinery of the U.S. Government tells us how far we have come. Prime Minister was speaking at the People Centred Development in the Pacific event, chaired by the U.S. Secretary of State, Mr Antony Blinken. This was the first event to be held in the lead-up to the full summit. The event was attended by the Pacific leaders and Heads of the Department of State, Peace Corps, East-West Centre, and the U.S. Agency for International Development. Prime Minister Bainimarama said the leaders look forward to working with the United

States to better integrate our economies, improve flows of trade; strengthen our educational links; increase two-way tourism and exchange; link our cultural institutions, and better link our schools and community organisations. The Prime Minister said that Fiji welcomed a people-centred approach to U.S. and Pacific relations to broaden engagement and build ties, especially among our young people. Prime Minister Bainimarama urged that more focus on our educational links should be directed to improving the representation of women and girls in science and technology – as this is where we still have a gap. He also emphasised the deepening of sports relations – through coaching programs; sports scholarships for Fijians and more sporting exchanges between our countries. The Prime Minister also spoke about the need to include education as a priority in Fiji and the Pacific. "We need to connect all our schools including primary schools - especially in the furthest islands. Without digital connectivity, we will suffer. Every child needs to be con-



nected to the digital world and we welcome the USA to work with us on the digital education revolution underway in Fiji". "We need to also expand the human resource base in Fiji - especially in advanced marine science; oceanography and other areas needed to drive our Blue economy ambition and we look to the US for partnerships." The Prime Minister said that this historic, first summit demonstrates the most serious and determined

effort by the Pacific and the U.S. to work together across the Blue Pacific on issues of shared concern. Secretary Blinken, in his address, welcomed the Pacific Leaders and stated that the focus of the U.S. in the Pacific will be on empowering the rising generation with knowledge, experiences, and interconnectedness. Secretary Blinken assured Pacific Leaders of a significant expansion of engagement by the U.S. in areas such as supporting

the development of new skills for the blue economy, cyber security partnership, establishing a larger regional presence of USAID; improving digital access and connectivity, and supporting the empowerment of women and girls. Pacific Leaders in attendance at the summit included the Prime Ministers of Samoa, Tonga, Papua New Guinea, Cook Islands, and the Solomon Islands.

## G20 MINISTERS OF TOURISM ENDORSE BALI GUIDELINES

Tuesday, 27 September 2022: Built on strong cooperation and shared responsibility, Tourism Ministers reaffirmed support to rebuild tourism as a more resilient, sustainable, inclusive, and safe sector. The G20 Tourism Ministerial Meeting ('TMM') held in Bali, Indonesia, discussed the future of global tourism under the G20 theme 'recover together, recover stronger' sector. Each Presidency hosts Ministerial meetings on focus areas that further matters of international relevance – building consensus around shared deliverables. Under the 2022 Presidency of Indonesia, a key outcome of the G20 TMM was the endorsement of the G20 Bali Guidelines for Strengthening Communities and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises as Tourism Transformation Agents: a People-Centered Recovery which asserts a collective stance on

supporting tourism as a transformative sector. Representing Fiji and the Pacific was the Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya, who shared with the Forum a Small Island Developing States' (SIDS) perspective. "We welcome the five Pillars of the Bali Guidelines. They prioritise our greatest assets – human capital. They strive to enhance innovation and digitalization. It puts women and youth at its heart – while calling for stronger governance and investments. Most importantly, it recognises our call to climate action," said Minister Koya. The Guidelines embody a policies and best practices in five main lines of actions including Pillar 1: Human capital: jobs, skills, entrepreneurship and education; Pillar 2: Innovation, digitalization and creative economy; Pillar 3: Women and youth empowerment; Pillar 4: Climate action,

biodiversity conservation and circular economy; and Pillar 5: Policy, governance and investment frameworks. In acknowledging that the G20 members represent over 80 percent of world GDP, 75 percent of international trade and 60 percent of the world population, Hon. Koya added that this makes the G20 a leading forum of change.

"The recovery of only 20 countries isn't a recovery at all. Every country that is left out or left behind leaves huge potential on the table for every nation. The strongest possible comeback for the world economy is only ensured by ensuring that all countries are on an equal playing field of opportunity," added Minister Koya. Fiji, on behalf

of the Pacific, called on a more permanent observatory role of the Pacific the G20. Along the margins, Fiji held a number of bilateral meetings to further discussions on tourism priorities and strengthen multilateral collaboration with G20 countries. The next G20 TMM is expected to be held under India's Presidency.





PARTY

**NORFOLK STRIKERS & EASTBAY FC**

*Presents  
Hangama Night*



DANCE DHAMAKA NIGHT

**SAPPHIRE  
BANQUET HALL,  
HAYWARD CA**

**17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2022**

**ONE & ONLY  
HURRICANE BIBI & GROUP  
FROM THE ISLANDS OF FIJI**

**DANCE DHAMAKA NIGHT**



**DJ -  
REAL DEAL  
& DJ AM**

*Dinner & Drinks Included*

**INFORMATION & TICKET:**  
**ATEN SINGH (650) 219-7995**  
**RAJESH SHANKAR (408) 425-4584**  
**DAVEN KUMAR (510) 938-3454**

**SPONSORED BY**

**SAT NARAYAN ( UNION CITY )**  
**STONE UNIVERSE INC . (510) 278-8303**  
**SUNTECH (510) 432-8711**



# 10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER INDEPENDENCE DAY FIJI ISLANDS

SOURCE: NATIONALDAY.COM

Fiji Day is observed on October 10 each year. The Republic of Fiji is a small island nation located in the South Pacific Ocean, 1,100 miles northeast of New Zealand. Known for its archipelago (island

groups) that contains hundreds of small islands, Fiji boasts pristine white beaches and a warm, breezy, tropical climate. Fiji Day is the culmination of Fiji Week, a period celebrating the Fijian people's cul-

ture, religion, and history. It's a time for happiness and festivities, but it's also a time for introspection and remembrance. Fiji Day is celebrated in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, USA as well UK.

Fiji Day commemorates two key events in the island nation's history, the ceding of Fiji to the United Kingdom in 1874 and Fiji gaining independence in 1970. Although the Dutch explorer Abel Tasman was the first European to explore the archipelago in 1643, the British colonial government took control of Fiji on October 10, 1874. Fiji Day marks the end of Fiji Week, a series of cultural and religious events that celebrate the ethnic diversity of Fijian and Indian people, who inhabit 110 islands in the archipelago.

Fiji Day's main events take place in the town of Levuka, which was the site where the deed of cession was signed. This event began a 96-year process that ended in Fiji finally gaining independence on October 10,

1970. These events honor Fiji's rich history and contribute to local tourism.

Fijians celebrate this nationwide holiday by dressing up in traditional garb and reenacting the events of October 10, 1874. In the capital (Suva), citizens, dignitaries, and local leaders convene in Albert Park to listen to addresses by the President and Prime Minister of Fiji. The park is a historic site named after Prince Albert, consort to Queen Victoria, to whom the country was ceded. Aside from these festivities, Fiji Day also involves military parades, the ceremonial firing of cannons, and the singing of the national anthem. The other communities inhabiting the numerous Fiji islands stage performances paying homage to their cultures.

1500 B.C.

## Melanesians Settle in Fiji

After the Lapita, Melanesian people settle in what is today known as Fiji.

1643

## Discovery of Fiji by Europeans

Abel Tasman becomes the first known European explorer to reach the islands of Fiji.

1822

## Beginning of European Settlement

Europeans begin settling in Levuka, the first modern town in Fiji.

1830

## Arrival of Christian Missionaries

The London Missionary Society sends the first Christian missionaries to Fiji.

1858

## First British Consul Arrives in Fiji

William Thomas Pritchard becomes the first British Consul to come to Fiji.

1871

## Establishment of Constitutional Monarchy

The Kingdom of Fiji becomes a constitutional monarchy, with a cabinet and legislature controlled by Australian settlers.

1874

## Fiji Becomes a British Colony

On 10 October 1874, Fiji officially becomes a British Colony under Queen Victoria.

1970

## Fiji Attains Independence

Following the April Constitutional Conference in London, Fiji becomes an independent country after 96 years of British rule.



## World News

## Ukraine war: Russian troops forced out of eastern town Lyman

Russia has withdrawn its troops from the strategic Ukrainian town of Lyman, in a move seen as a significant setback for its campaign in the east. The retreat came amid fears thousands of soldiers would be encircled in the town, Russia's defence ministry said. Recapturing Lyman could let Ukrainian soldiers reach more contested territory in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Sunday the town had been "completely cleared" of Russian troops. Video footage shared online on Saturday - before the Russian retreat was announced - showed Ukrainian soldiers waving their national flag on the outskirts of the town. Lyman had been used as a logistics hub by Russia, making its recapture all the more signifi-

cant to Ukrainian forces. The battlefield setback prompted the Chechen leader and hardline Moscow ally, Ramzan Kadyrov, to comment that Russia should consider using low-yield nuclear weapons in the face of such defeats. Lyman is in Donetsk - one of four partially-occupied Ukrainian regions which Russia declared it was annexing on Friday. Ukraine and its Western allies have dismissed the move as an illegal land-grab. An adviser to Ukraine's defence minister earlier told the BBC that recent gains around Lyman - following days of intense fighting - represented a "considerable success". Russian fighters had been given the chance to surrender, Yurik Sak said, and would face better treatment as prisoners of war than from the Russian military leadership. Shortly af-



terwards, the Kremlin said it was withdrawing its forces from the town, using its Soviet-era name of Krasnyi (Red) Lyman, acknowledging that the Ukrainians had "significant superiority

in forces" in the area. Military analysts say that Kyiv currently has momentum in the war, and it has vowed to forge ahead with a counter-offensive to reclaim all territory under occupation. In

a speech on Friday, Mr Zelensky said efforts to "liberate our entire land" would act as proof that international law could not be violated.

## Brazil election: The presidential race is far from over

When the results came through on Sunday evening, there were cheers for Lula - as well as tears - but the atmosphere felt more like a sense of relief than outright celebration. This wasn't the first-round victory that his supporters had wished for. The polls released a day before the elections had predicted a 14 percentage point gap between Lula and Bolsonaro. They had hoped Lula could avoid a run-off but they vastly underestimated the support for the right-wing leader. "I've never won an election in the first round, it's like destiny wants me to work a bit more," Lula said, trying to reassure people of his chances. "We are going to win the elections again, it's just a question of time." Lula is still the front-runner and his position is still strong. But there is no doubt this has been a blow to the Lula campaign. In the past few weeks, there had been a concerted effort by his supporters to try and encourage wavering voters to choose Lula, to end the Bolsonaro presidency promptly. The show of strength from the right - not

just from Bolsonaro but prominent Bolsonaristas who were also elected to congress and as state governors - has taken people by surprise. "Bolsonarism is much more alive and has a further reach than people had thought and polls had captured," says Esther Solano, a political scientist and Bolsonaro expert. "What we underestimated was the network of regional Bolsonarism. We have to rethink how we are failing to measure the true reach of Bolsonarism in daily life across Brazil." In his post-results speech, Bolsonaro adopted a more humble tone than in the past - a break from his often fiery politics about the left. Perhaps a conscious effort to win over those who are still undecided. "I know there's a desire to change from people but there are certain changes that can be for the worse," he said. "We tried to show that during the campaign but clearly that didn't get through to the most important layers of society." Bolsonaro vowed to show people how to ensure Brazil wouldn't become Venezuela - it's a common comparison



that the far-right makes when criticising the left. In the run-up to this vote, Bolsonaro repeatedly said that the polls were a lie - and to many it looked like he was just a bad loser. But reflecting on Sunday's results, there are people who think that Bolsonaro has a point. It's certainly what Bolsonaro's supporters believe. "It's time for liberty, for justice," says teacher Selma Cardoso who said the polls were biased. If Lula wins she's pre-

pared to take action. "We'll go to the streets saying people are making a mistake. It's time to change - but peacefully." But others who support the president threaten to take a more violent approach. "There's going to be beautiful blood spilled in this city," Alessandro Ferreira Soares, a parachutist, told me if Lula takes the presidency. "I'm prepared to kill all the socialists and communists in the world." It's these ominous threats that

make people worried. These next four weeks are going to be intense - and personal. With two powerful political foes now going head-to-head, the campaign steps up several notches. There's everything to play for in this presidential race - and everything to lose if you're on the wrong side. We saw political violence in the run-up to the first round and there's real fear there will be more of that ahead of the run-off.



# Roop Kala Jewelers

Specialists in 22ct Gold Jewelry  
Once a Customer, Always a Friend

Now Available Imitation Jewelry

Fashion & Silver Jewelry  
Watch Battery Change  
Watch Repair

San Bruno, CA 94066  
PH:(650) 871-5611  
Roop Kala Jewelers  
631 San Mateo Ave



*Specialists in 22ct Gold Jewelry*

Roop Kala Jewelers, 631 San Mateo Ave and San Bruno,  
CA 94066

**PH:(650) 871-5611**

Watch Battery Change Watch Repair

Watch Department- Call Direct 650-808-0859





## World News

# Iran protests: Supreme leader blames unrest on US and Israel

Iran's supreme leader has blamed the US and Israel for the protests sweeping the country following the death of a woman whilst in police custody. In his first public comments on the unrest, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said "riots" had been "engineered" by Iran's arch-enemies and their allies. The protests are the biggest challenge to his rule for a decade, and he urged security forces to be ready for more. The US said it was "appalled" by the violent response to the protests. The UK echoed the sentiment, summoning Iran's most senior diplomat in London on Monday, to tell their leaders in Tehran that "instead of blaming external actors for the unrest, they should take responsibility for their actions and listen to the concerns of their people". Mahsa Amini, 22, fell into a coma hours after being detained by morality police on 13 September in Tehran for allegedly breaking the strict law requiring women to cover their hair with a hijab, or headscarf. She died three days later. Her family has alleged that officers beat her head with a baton and banged her head against one of their vehicles. The police have said there is no evidence of any mistreatment and that she suffered "sudden heart failure". Women have led the protests that began after Ms Amini's funeral, waving their headscarves in the air or setting them



on fire to chants of "Woman, life, freedom" and "Death to the dictator" - a reference to Ayatollah Khamenei. Addressing a graduation ceremony of police and armed forces cadets on Monday, the supreme leader said Ms Amini's death "broke our hearts". "But what is not normal is that some people, without proof or an investigation, have made the streets dangerous, burned the Quran, removed hijabs from veiled women and set fire to mosques and cars," he added, without mentioning any specific incidents. The ayatollah, who has

the final say on all state matters, asserted that foreign powers had planned "rioting" because they could not tolerate Iran "attaining strength in all spheres". "I say clearly that these riots and the insecurity were engineered by America and the occupying, false Zionist regime [Israel], as well as their paid agents, with the help of some traitorous Iranians abroad." He also gave his full backing to the security forces, saying that they had faced "injustice" during the unrest. Iran Human Rights, a Norway-based group, said on Sunday that at least 133 people had

been killed by security forces so far. They include 41 protesters whom ethnic Baluch activists said had died in clashes in Zahedan on Friday. State media have reported that more than 40 people have been killed, including security personnel. Ayatollah Khamenei's comments came a day after security forces violently cracked down on a protest by students at Iran's most prestigious science and engineering university, reportedly arresting dozens. The BBC's Kasra Naji says the gunfire heard around the campus of Sharif University of Technology in Tehran on

Sunday night spread fear among many Iranians that authorities had decided to make an example of the students. Security forces tried to enter the campus, but the students drove them back and closed all the entrance gates. But, our correspondent adds, a siege developed and the students who tried to leave through an adjacent car park were picked up one by one and beaten, blindfolded and taken away. In one video posted on social media, a large number of people are seen running inside a car park while being pursued by men on motorbikes.

## Gold coins hidden in 7th Century found in wall

Archaeologists in Israel say 44 pure gold coins dating to the 7th Century have been found hidden in a wall at a nature reserve. Weighing about 170g, the hoard found at the Hermon Stream (Baniyas) site was hidden during the Muslim conquest of the area in 635, experts estimated. They said the coins shed light on the end of the Byzantine rule in the area. The Byzantine Empire was the eastern half of the Roman Empire, which survived for more than 1,000 years. "We can imagine the owner concealing his fortune in the threat of war, hoping to return one day to retrieve his property," said Yoav Lerer, director of the exca-

vation. "In retrospect, we know that he was less fortunate." Apart from the gold coins, the excavation - in a residential quarter of the ancient city - also uncovered the remains of buildings, water channels and pipes, bronze coins and much more, Israeli authorities said. Dr Gabriela Bijovsky, a numismatic (currency) expert at the Israel Antiquities Authority, said some of the coins were of Emperor Phocas (602-610), but most were of his successor Heraclius. Baniyas has a particular place in Christian tradition, being the site where Jesus is said to have told the apostle Peter, "on this rock, I will build my church".





# FIJI MARKET



**ONE STOP FIJI SHOP FOR YOUR FAMILY**

**FIJI KAVA**

**FRESH PRODUCE**

**FIJI SWEETS**

**FIJI PICKLES**

**TARO | CASAVA**

**POOJA ITEMS**

**FIJI ICE-CREAM**

**OTTA | BELLE | DARUKA**

**FIJI SNACKS**

**621 SAN MATEO AVE, SAN BRUNO CA 94066**

**PHONE: 650-589-6388**



# STAR FABRICS

INDIAN CLOTHING | FASHION JEWELRY | FABRICS & MUCH MORE



**29625 MISSION BLVD, HAYWARD CA 94544**  
**PHONE: 510-881-8545**



## Diwali

# Diwali: Spreading the Lights of Happiness

It's a Festival that illuminates the Earth as well as the Skies and brings joy abound on this world. It is a festival when the whole of India transcends into a land of myriad lamps. Deepavali, the Festival of Lights has all the charm, grandeur and splendour that can even illuminate our minds and hearts while also promoting the much needed peace, harmony and brotherhood in the society. It is a Festival that unifies every religion, every home and every heart. The festival of Deepavali has a deep spiritual meaning, it essentially means the Awareness of the Inner Light. In a way it is the celebration of the awakening and awareness of the Inner Light which has the power to outshine darkness and clear all obstacles in life. Deepavali literally means a row or array of lights. Celebrated on the thirteenth/ fourteenth day in the dark half of the Kartika Masa (October – November), it is a celebration of light despite being the darkest night of the darkest period. As every festival in India even the Festival of Deepavali has its own inner significance than mere lighting diyas, wearing new clothes, exchanging sweets and bursting crackers. Diwali's essence lies in the sloka, 'Tamaso ma jyotirgamaya' which means "Lead me from darkness to light." Similarly, we have to light the lamp of happiness, the lamp of prosperity and the lamp



of knowledge to dispel sorrow, poverty as well as disease. As per the Vedanta, every devout Hindu has to fill his heart with the oil of love, light the wick with the knowledge of Truth and ward off ignorance. It further states that we can kindle light in many hearts just like a Diya which can light many Diyas. One of the legends associated with Diwali that Lord Krishna killed demon Narakasura to free the Gopikas, in a way signifies that we have to fight the evil or demonic forces within us by following the path of righteousness. The festival of

Diwali reminds each one of us to understand that life is much more than a mere journey and it is a continuous quest for truth and knowledge. Unity in Diversity: The legends regarding Diwali also highlight the philosophical truth of the Vedas. The Festival of Diwali binds people and is a synthesis of spirituality, religion, culture and social values. In Northern India, people celebrate the Festival of Lights to mark the return of Lord Ram to Ayodhya along with Seeta and brother Lakshman after a 14 year exile. While in South India it signifies the victory of

Lord Krishna over demon Narakasura. Ultimately both remind us of the necessity to destroy evil forces and strengthen divine forces. In Western India, Diwali is associated with the legend which states that on this day Lord Vishnu in his 5th incarnation as Vamana, had rescued Lakshmi from the prison of King Bali. This is another reason behind worshipping and invoking Goddess Lakshmi during Diwali. As per a legend from the epic Mahabharata, it was Karthik Amavasya when the Pancha Pandavas returned from their 12 years of exile. It is said the people who loved the Pandavas celebrated the day by lighting thousands of earthen lamps and distributing sweets. History says the greatest Hindu king Vikramaditya was coronated on the day of Diwali, which also makes the festival historic and not merely mythological. The Festival of Diwali is also of great significance to Jains as it is said it was on this day that Lord Mahaveera attained Nirvana or eternal bliss.

The Sikhs too have a reason to celebrate Diwali. History says that it was on this auspicious day that Guru Hargobind, the Sixth Sikh Guru was freed from captivity of Jahangir, the Mughal Emperor. Sikhs also celebrate Diwali to commemorate the laying of the foundation stone for the Golden Temple in 1577. Sweet Temptations: Diwali is that Festival when

sweets continue to tempt us throughout. If there is one festival which boasts of loads and loads of sweets, then it is undoubtedly Deepavali which is just incomplete with sweets. Sweet boxes are generously exchanged among friends and relatives, in a way contributing towards harmonious co-existence. In the modern day world, Diwali celebrations are not just confined to India, but is celebrated by Indians across the globe with the same festive spirit. It helps in fostering a sense of brotherhood as it encourages people to come together and celebrate the festival regardless of their background. The Divine light burns within us and all around us. Let this Diwali bring joy and happiness abound for humanity by dispelling the darkness of ignorance and many more evils that are creating havoc on mankind. Let the Lights of Happiness spread across the globe. It is all about discovering the knowledge of our infinite potential and dispelling ignorance. Diwali is also resplendent of the dawn of knowledge through the inner light, that is the enlightenment of the soul. The Spiritual Factor: As per the Vedanta, every devout Hindu has to fill his heart with the oil of love, light the wick with the knowledge of Truth and ward off ignorance. It further states that we can kindle light in many hearts just like a Diya which can light many Diyas.





# MOST POWERFUL & SUCCESSFUL PANDITH JI

Specialized in:  
**BRINGING LOVED  
ONES BACK**



**EXPERT IN READING  
HOROSCOPE, PSYCHIC,  
PALM READING**

**BLACK  
MAGIC REMOVAL**



**I AM THE KEY TO YOUR SUCCESS**

**WORRYING IS WASTING ENERGY ON  
THE THINGS YOU CAN'T CONTROL  
LEAVE EVERYTHING IN MY HAND**

**ALL RELIGIONS ARE WELCOME**

**YOU ARE NOT ALONE!**

**Stop Worrying All Work is Guaranteed No More Sorrow & Tears**



**SPIRITUAL HEALER**



**GET LOVE BACK**



**BLACK MAGIC**



**HEALTH ISSUES**



**LOVE SPELLS**



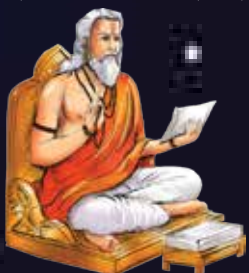
**PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL**

**QUICK RESULTS**

**HELPS ON ALL MATTERS OF LIFE  
ARE YOU FACING DIFFICULT PROBLEMS?**

Need help with (Love) (Black Magic) (Marriage)  
(Husband) (Wife) (Divorce) (Relationships) (Family)  
(Friends) (Health) (Business) (Job) (Money)? etc.,

**POOJA FOR  
KALA SARPA DOSH  
MANGLIK DOSH  
PITRA DOSH**



**Astrologer  
Raghav**

**714 936 2111**  
www.astrologerusa.com  
**Los angeles, CA 92647**







Monday 12th September 2022

Mr. Narendra Narayan  
California  
USA

**RE: HOSPITAL HEART AMBASSADOR**

Dearest Mr. Narayan

On behalf of the Heads of the Sai Sanjeevani Children's Heart Hospital Fiji and Sai Prema Foundation, I have much pleasure in appointing you as the **'USA HEART AMBASSADOR'** for the Hospital.

We thank you most sincerely for your love, dedication, commitment and passion to make a difference and save the lives of children of Fiji and the South Pacific.

It is in fact a matter of great pride that Fiji is the first nation in the Pacific and Oceania region to have a Pediatric Cardiac Super-Speciality Hospital treating children with Congenital Heart Disease (CHD).

All surgeries and treatments will be performed absolutely free of cost – the Hospital does not and will not ever have a billing counter!

Congenital Heart Disease (CHD) is a major problem affecting the children of Fiji and the Pacific. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), approximately 1% of all children born globally are affected by Congenital Heart Disease (CHD). This equates to approximately 200 children born in Fiji and 2,500 in the Pacific Island nations with CHD. The sad fact is that most children are unable to survive.

The reality is that the entire region is showing a significantly higher statistic than the global average. Through the Sai Sanjeevani Children's Heart Screening Centre established in 2019, Fiji is showing a rate of over 3% of children born with CHD.

The Sai Sanjeevani Children's Heart Hospital is an answer to the prayers of thousands of families who cannot afford treatment overseas nor have the option of accessing local treatment due to its sheer unavailability.

The vision of this children's free heart hospital is to become the most important Pediatric Cardiac Centre for Fiji and the Pacific Island nations. Pursuant to the principles of Sai Prema Foundation, no child or parent will pay for the surgery. All services at the Hospital including Heart Surgery will be provided completely free of cost.

Despite the charitable nature of the project, Sai Prema Foundation has created a world-class facility with the aim of providing the best possible surgery and treatment to the children of Fiji and the Pacific. The Hospital houses state-of-the-art equipment for its Catheterization Lab, Operating Theatre, Intensive Care Unit, Pre-Operation and Post-Operation Wards. The Hospital also includes a Training Centre with technological capabilities for international Video Conferencing.

You will be very happy to know that in the short space of time since the inauguration on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022, over 2,100 children have been given pediatric cardiac echocardiograms and 60 children have received open-heart surgeries absolutely free of cost!

To continue to save the lives of the children of Fiji and the South Pacific, much work needs to be done to gather the support of the entire Fijian global diaspora. We look forward to working with you to ensure that no child is left behind and that lives are saved.

Once again, hearty congratulations on this appointment!

Best regards,

Dr. Krupali Tappoo  
MBBS, FRACGP, DIP.CH  
Director  
Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Children's Hospital  
Ph: +679 9994052  
Email: [krupalir@hotmail.com](mailto:krupalir@hotmail.com)  
Web: [www.saipremafiji.com](http://www.saipremafiji.com)



## Obituary

*Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un*



It is with Deep Sorrow that we convey our Condolences to the Buksh Family on the Sad Passing away of the late Tahir Ali Buksh of Auckland, New Zealand.

The late Tahir is a very close Cousin of our CEO/Publisher Mr. Rocky Ali Buksh, and was also born and raised up at the Buksh Estate at 34 Grantham Rd Suva.

During his young days, Mr. Tahir Buksh was also a well-known figure in Suva City and also worked in Family Pharmacy @ Cumming St, The City Pharmacy Was Very Famous in The 60s, 70s & 80s. The late Mr Tahir Buksh is the Son of the late Mr. Wahid Ali Buksh and the late Mrs Sakina Ali Buksh.

He will be sadly missed by the Buksh Family in Fiji, USA, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

*Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un*



Standing Fiji community member, businessmen and a great friend of Rocky Buksh Mr Wahab Ali passed away on September 10th 2022. Mr Ali was the owner of Welch Travel Service formally located in San Bruno CA. Mr Ali was a very active member of the Fiji community and was the past board member of Fiji Jamal Ul Islam Mosque in South San Francisco, one of the Founders of the San Bruno Masjid and past President for Fiji Muslim Sports Association of America. Under his leadership he USA was victorious in the Fiji Muslim Sports tournament which was held in Price Charles park in Nadi in 2015 which is now known as FANCA.

Mr Ali helped many institutions and non profit organizations of all religious faiths here in the Bay Area.

Mr Wahab Ali was the younger brother of Mr Wahid Ali and father of Zain Ali of Newark CA





**IMPORTED MIDDLE EASTERN & EUROPEAN GROCERIES**

**Besan's International Market**

ملحمة و بقالة بيسان

Retailers of Fresh Quality Halal Meats, Groceries & International Spices. Besan International has a Butcher which serves fresh meats everyday for your convenience. Come visit us today.



**480 SAN MATEO AVE, SAN BRUNO CA 94066**  
**PHONE: 650-872-7741** **OPEN 7 DAYS**



## Sports

# CANADIAN FIJI OPEN GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP 2022

SPONSORED BY WINGATE KAMLOOPS

Report by Pramesh P Sharma



The tournament was held @ Tobiano Golf Club in Kamloops BC. Wingate of Kamloops Sponsored the event. CEO Arun Deo has given a commitment for the next 10 years to sponsor this event which will be held in Kamloops. This was 6th time the tournament was held beginning in 2012, but with the sponsorship by Wingate of Kamloops we should see this held every year going forward. Anusheel Deo COO for Wingate setup the tournament at the golf course and all the prizes for the tournament and was in the tournament committee with Pramesh P Sharma Tournament Director Kamal Gounder and Ajit Singh and Ben Azad. On Saturday night Arun Deo hosted a grand dinner for all the players with a delicious 4 course meal. This year the tournament was 36 holes stroke play. The North American Fiji Golf Association which conducts the tournament thanks both the players and the sponsors and will be setting the dates for 2023 in November. The results are:



Open Champion : Chris Lee  
Net Open Champion: Birendra Prasad



Division II  
Open Champion : Ajit Singh  
Net Open Champion: Anusheel Deo



Super Senior  
Open Champion : Jim Naidu  
Net Open Champion: Jimmy Nandan





## Sports



## “ Believe In Yourself “

Nickeel Nand , 8 year old American born footballer who plays as a midfielder for EVERETT FC U10 is all ready to represent Seattle USA and FIJI in Paris France

Nickeel , both parents are from Korociriciri , Nausori .

Fiji

Nickeel is a grandson of Satya Nand ( Gulla ) and Mohini Lata .

Nand started playing soccer at age of 4.

Nand went out for a trial with PSG .

After a week of trial with France coaches , he got SELECTED to join Paris Saint-Germain Soccer Camp. Nand is all set to depart Seattle for Paris in Oct 2022.

Nand favorite soccer team is PSG and since he started playing , it was always his dream to play once in France . Nand is hoping to get diploma in France and follow he's dream to play for Fiji .



# Roop Kala Jewelers

Specialists in 22ct Gold Jewelry

Once a Customer, Always a Friend

Now Available Imitation Jewelry

Fashion & Silver Jewelry  
Watch Battery Change  
Watch Repair

San Bruno, CA 94066  
PH:(650) 871-5611  
Roop Kala Jewelers  
631 San Mateo Ave





## Sports

# American Fiji Sports Commission, We Are Proud Of Our Fijian Soccer Success In America

Great achievement of our usa fiji all stars team . First time participating at California soccer association north state tournament and ending up as runners up . Proud moment for our fans and supporters.



## The Digicel Junior Bula Boys will be rewarded for booking a flight to the FIFA U- 20 World Cup 2022 to be played in Indonesia next year.



Fiji FA chief executive officer Mohammed Yusuf confirmed that the boys were promised cash incentives by President Rajesh Patel if they qualify for the FIFA World Cup. "The Boys knew what the goal was in the competition and we are proud that they achieved it with their hard work and determination," said Yusuf.

"Our team has made the whole country proud and they need to be rewarded for their hard work."

"Congratulations to the whole team for their hard work," "Fiji FA invested a huge amount in the preparation and participation of the team and getting rewarded back is always great."

"The boys and officials sacrificed a lot and the whole team remained determined and were able to take this win."

"The boys made the whole nation proud and we thank them, the coaches for their hard work and the families for allowing the boys to be part of the team in the OFC."



## Sports

# Telecom Fiji Sponsors Golf Tournament to Raise Money for Cancer Awareness

The Telecom Charity Ambrose Golf Tournament is expected to have full participation at the Suva Course, with 100 people turning out to enjoy the fundraising event. Today, the Golf Tournament received sponsorship from Telecom Fiji for the upcoming charity golf tournament with an agreement valued at \$7,000.00. Telecom Fiji Manager Marketing, Berlinda Williams, states "As part of our Corporate Social Responsibility to Fijians, the sponsorship emphasizes the company's commitment to our people". "We hope our sponsorship will greatly contribute to the outstanding work of Fiji Cancer Society, raising awareness and looking after those in need" added Ms. Berlinda Williams. Fiji Cancer Society Chief Executive Officer, Belinda Chan, said that partnerships such as this will boost the



work we do in the cancer spectrum. "Men's health is just as important as the women and we are grateful to work with Tele-

com Fiji to raise awareness and funds for men diagnosed with cancer", said Ms Belinda Chan. "We appreciate the support from

Telecom Fiji and we encourage everyone to join us as we raise funds for men's health," Ms. Belinda Chan added. This

tournament will be held at the Fiji Golf Club on Friday 21st October this year.

## Stop using Fijian 7s players for political advantages: FRU

Players and Management have been directed to refrain from participating or being personally involved in any political party events, meetings, gatherings, or public relations. Fiji Rugby Chairman Commodore Humphrey Tawake said "Political parties, groups and individuals are reminded to act professionally and responsibly and not use the RWC 7s win and players for their personal and political advantage." FRU is mindful that since the national event on 16th September to celebrate the Rugby World Cup win in South Africa, players' families and relatives have conducted their own celebrations in the comfort of their respective villages and communities. "The Fiji Rugby 7s players are professional players who are strictly guided by a Code of Conduct. The general public is advised that the appearance of Fiji 7s players and the display of the Melrose Cup will only occur in FRU sanctioned events" said Commodore Tawake.







# RUGBY RETURNS 2023



Dignity Health Sports Park

**FEBRUARY 25 & 26**

@LASEVENSRUGBY • LASEVENSRUGBY.COM