

FIA Partners With Akbar Restaurant & Rajbhog to Provide Over 1,000 Complimentary Meals to Front liners Working in Multiple Hospitals



The Consulate General of India in New York has been working round the clock to connect with Indian nationals and Indian Americans, reaching out to those in distress, and urging people to maintain social distancing and hygiene.

And to achieve that, the consulate is working with the Federation of Indian Associations of NY, NJ, CT (FIA Tristate), and other community organizations. According to Consul General Sandeep Chakravorty, the FIA leadership has been relentless in its supports to those in need during these trying times.

The organization has worked relentlessly to find accommodation for stranded Indian students, along with the Consulate. Similarly, FIA has collaborated with Pradeep Malhotra of Akbar restaurant and the Mody family of Rajbhog to provide food boxes to health care professionals and those on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic. Chakravorty said he and his staff also engage with regular conference calls with the FIA leadership to determine the next course of action. "Collaboration with local organizations like the FIA is extremely necessary," Chakravorty



noted, "especially with areas with a significant Indian American population."

While there is uncertainty and fear, Chakravorty said that "the need of the hour is for everyone to stay calm." Acknowledging that there is a large number of Indian nationals currently in the U.S., including international students, tourists and those on business trips, Chakravorty noted that the safest and wisest thing they could do is "to remain where they are."

While any voluntary travels are being cancelled or postponed by people to stay safe, many others are worried about unavoidable situations. Keeping in mind, these grave situations and in an attempt to help people during these unusual times, the Indian Consulate in New York has launched COVID-19 travel helpline. Those who may be facing any immigration related issues or are challenged with a need to travel during these extraordinary times are advised to reach out to their respective embassies.

Chakravorty said that it's been a challenge for him and his staff since March 22 when the Government of India closed all scheduled international commercial passenger services to India until April 14. Earlier on March 11, a travel advisory issued by the Indian government had advised that all existing visas (except diplomatic, official, UN / international organizations, employment and project visas) stand suspended till April 15.

The Consul General pointed out that in these unusual circumstances, the role of the consulate has extended to providing moral support as well. "There has been a drastic change in the way we work," Chakravorty said. "We are working at a micro level," he said.



CGI-NY Team led by CG Sandeep Chakravorty & DCG Shatrughna Sinha have started holding community video calls to take account of the on ground situation in the tri-state. Picture above was one such call with the FIA team discussing proactive measures and assistance program plans in the event the COVID-19 situation deteriorates.

From L to R top - FIA President Anil Bansal - DCG Shatrughna Sinha - CG Sandeep Chakravorty - Executive Team Member Alok Kumar - Community Affairs Consul - A.K.Vijayakrishnan - FIA Secretary Parveen Bansal - FIA Exec. VP-Himan Bhatia - Trustee Srujal Parikh - Trustee Ankur Vaidya - CGI-NY's Prameet logo & Treasurer Amit Ringasia (not seen)

Voluntary Content Compilation
FIA NY-NJ-CT and
Community Volunteers

Voluntary Editor
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Voluntary Graphic
Compilation
Gracia Marcom

Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams to Collaborate With FIA to Mobilize Indian Americans for Gubernatorial Run

Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams said he wants to work with the Federation of Indian Associations of NY, NJ, CT (FIA Tristate), to mobilize the Indian American community in the borough of Brooklyn and all of New York City. Adams served as an officer in the New York City Transit Police and then the New York City Police Department, for 22 years.

“Communication is crucial,” Adams, a 2021 NYC mayoral candidate, said, adding that “we need events,” to reach out to the Indian American and South Asian American population and raise funds for his gubernatorial campaign.

According to the Census Bureau’s 2006–2008 and 2009–2011 American Community Survey (ACS), data, there are about 12 percent Indian Americans in Brooklyn.

Borough presidents advise the mayor, comment on land-use items in their borough, advocate borough needs in the annual municipal budget process, appoint some officials and community board members, and serve ex officio as members of various boards and committees.

His campaign raised over \$3 million, he said, and touted the relationships he has made with the diverse Brooklynites. However, he added that along with FIA, he and his team is looking to expand on those relationships, and also involve local, ethnic media to report on the campaign.

Adams said his number one priority as NYC mayor would be to make New York a healthy place to live and raise a family. “This is a difficult period for all of us,” Adams said, referring to the coronavirus pandemic. As of March 31, Brooklyn had 10,171 or 27 percent of New York City cases, which is currently the most confirmed cases [of the novel coronavirus] of any borough in the city. Adams is currently “very much on the ground,” helping the people of Brooklyn through these trying times. He is touring and examining hospitals, delivery food to the homeless and the needy and also to healthcare workers. He said the health crisis is affecting people and hospitals in his borough which are running out of important protective medical supplies, like the coveted N95 masks and the hospitals and ICU centers are already starting to become overcrowded.

In an earlier tweet, Adams had proposed taking a two-pronged approach – “public health and economy” – to help tackle the pandemic. “Public Health approach remains to flatten the curve, trying to avoid the apex or spike,” he tweeted. “Need every



County to have a 1000+ overflow bed capacity, still working to get to 140K bed capacity.”

Along with logistics and the physical well being of Brooklyn residents, Adams is also focusing on their mental state as well. He recently led a meditation session to relieve COVID-19 anxiety.

Another important task Adams’ office is dealing with is Census 2020. “We are ensuring that each and every resident of Brooklyn gets counted in this Census,” he said. “My critical priority is to ensure that every Brooklynite is fairly counted.”

A press release issued by Adams’ office on Oct. 25, 2015, quoted Jeffrey M. Wice, fellow at the Rockefeller Institute of Government, saying that in 2010, Brooklyn had the lowest census response rate in New York State.

Adams, who was born in the Brownsville neighborhood of Brooklyn on September 1, 1960, was drawn to public service at the early age of 15 after he and his brother were beaten badly by police officers; the violent encounter would later motivate him to pursue a career in law enforcement, a decision reinforced by mentors like Reverend Herbert Daughtry and Jitu Weusi.

Following a public school journey capped by his graduation from Bayside High School, Adams went on to earn an Associate in Arts degree in data processing from the New York City College of Technology, a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice from John Jay College of Criminal Justice,

and a Master of Public Administration degree from Marist College. He paid his way through his collegiate studies through a number of jobs, including work in the mailroom of an accounting firm, as a mechanic, and as a clerk in the Kings County District Attorney's Office.

Adams graduated from the New York City Police Academy in 1984 as one of the highest-ranked students in his class. After initially serving with the New York City Transit Police Department, he was transferred to the New York City Police Department (NYPD) with the merging of the city's police forces.

During the course of his 22-year law enforcement career, Adams served in the 94th Precinct (Greenpoint), 88th Precinct (Clinton Hill and Fort Greene), and the 6th Precinct (Greenwich Village and West Village), where he retired at the rank of captain.

In 1995, Adams co-founded 100 Blacks in Law Enforcement Who Care, an advocacy group that rose to nationwide prominence speaking out against police brutality, racial profiling, and departmental diversity. He also served at one time as president of the Grand Council of Guardians, a statewide fraternal society for African-Americans in law enforcement.

Through leadership roles in these organizations, Eric helped raise thousands of dollars for worthy causes across New York City.

Adams was elected to the first of four terms in the New York State Senate in 2006, where he represented a diverse range of neighborhoods across brownstone and central Brooklyn. During his tenure in the State Legislature, he chaired both the Veterans, Homeland Security, and Military Affairs Committee and the Racing, Gaming, and Wagering Committee. In 2013, Brooklynites elected Eric as the first person of color to serve as their borough president; he is currently serving his second term as Brooklyn's chief executive.

In 2016, Adams was diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes. Having lost vision in his left eye and suffering from nerve damage in his hands and feet, he went against the initial recommendations of his doctors and pursued a whole-food, plant-based diet. Within three months, he reversed his diabetes diagnosis, and he has subsequently been able to impact the health of countless New Yorkers facing chronic diseases, including his own mother.

Adams lives in Bedford-Stuyvesant, where he has resided for more than 20 years.

New Jersey Tax Filing Deadline Extended From April 15 to July 15

Governor Phil Murphy, Senate President Steve Sweeney and Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin have extended the tax filing deadline, from April 15 to July 15, giving residents 90 more days to file and pay their state income taxes.

In a joint statement released on April 1 on tax filing deadline and the state budget timetable they acknowledged that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic "has caused hardships, financial strain, and disruptions for many New Jerseyans and New Jersey businesses."

"Additionally, as part of the whole-of-government effort that is going into fighting COVID-19, we have agreed that the state fiscal year should be extended to September 30, he said. "This will allow the administration and the legislature to focus fully on leading New Jersey out of this crisis, and to allow for a robust, comprehensive, and well-informed



budget process later in the year. We are committed to working together to enact the necessary legislation and supplemental appropriations to accomplish these goals."

The announcement catches the state up to the IRS, which announced the three-month extension on March 20 as part of its response to the coronavirus economic crisis.

Dadi Janki, Global Head of Brahma Kumaris, Passes Away at 104

Dadi Janki, the administrative head of the Brahma Kumaris, the world's largest spiritual organization run by women, passed away in a hospital in Mount Abu on March 27. She was 104. She had been suffering from respiratory and stomach-related ailments for the past two months.

Her last rites were performed at the Shantivan campus of the Brahma Kumaris institution in Mount Abu.

Expressing grief at the passing away of Dadi Janki, President Ram Nath Kovind tweeted that her contributions in the fields of spirituality, social welfare, and women's empowerment had been invaluable.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi too expressed grief over her demise. "Rajyogini Dadi Janki Ji, Chief of the Brahma Kumaris, served society with diligence. She toiled to bring a positive difference in the lives of others," he tweeted. Modi said her efforts towards empowering women were noteworthy. "My thoughts are with her countless followers in this sad hour. Om Shanti," he wrote.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Defense Minister Rajnath Singh, and Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal also sent their condolences on her passing away.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot, and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also expressed their condolences.

Veteran Bharatiya Janata Party leader L K Advani, party president J P Nadda, Congress leader Shashi Tharoor and Baba Ramdev were among the others who paid tributes to Dadi Janki.

Due to the lockdown in the country to slow the spread of the coronavirus, only a few people connected with the Brahma Kumaris, besides local officials, could be present during the last rites. However, the funeral was shown live on YouTube and on the Awakening television channel of the Brahma Kumaris.

Born in 1916 in Hyderabad, Sindh, now in Pakistan, Dadi Janki dedicated her life to spiritual



service at the age of 21 after coming into contact with the Brahma Kumaris.

In 1970, the institution sent her to London, where she served for 35 years, expanding the institution's services to more than 100 countries.

Dadi Janki became head of the Brahma Kumaris in 2007 after the passing away of the previous head of the organization, Dadi Prakashmani.

Even at an advanced age, Dadi Janki maintained a busy schedule, which began at 4 am with meditation and included spiritual study and meetings with visitors.

During the year 2019, Dadi set a record of sorts by traveling about 72,000 kilometers in India and 10 other countries.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had named Dadi Janki as a brand ambassador for the Swachh Bharat mission.

The Brahma Kumaris, which is active in 140 countries, has more than 8,000 centers run by about 46,000 dedicated women members. Over 2 million people all over the world regularly benefit from its spiritual teachings and other services aimed at creating a value-based society.

IRS Says Distribution of Economic Impact Payments to Begin in Next 3 Weeks

The Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service on March 30 announced that distribution of economic impact payments will begin in the next three weeks and will be distributed automatically, with no action required for most people. However, some seniors and others who typically do not file returns will need to submit a simple tax return to receive the stimulus payment.

» Who is eligible for the economic impact payment?

Tax filers with adjusted gross income up to \$75,000 for individuals and up to \$150,000 for married couples filing joint returns will receive the full payment. For filers with income above those amounts, the payment amount is reduced by \$5 for each \$100 above the \$75,000/\$150,000 thresholds. Single filers with income exceeding \$99,000 and \$198,000 for joint filers with no children are not eligible.

Eligible taxpayers who filed tax returns for either 2019 or 2018 will automatically receive an economic impact payment of up to \$1,200 for individuals or \$2,400 for married couples. Parents also receive \$500 for each qualifying child.

» How will the IRS know where to send my payment?

The vast majority of people do not need to take any action. The IRS will calculate and automatically send the economic impact payment to those eligible. For people who have already filed their 2019 tax returns, the IRS will use this information to calculate the payment amount. For those who have not yet filed their return for 2019, the IRS will use information from their 2018 tax filing to calculate the payment. The economic impact payment will be deposited directly into the same banking account reflected on the return filed.

» The IRS does not have my direct deposit info. What can I do?

In the coming weeks, Treasury plans to develop a web-based portal for individuals to provide their banking information to the IRS online, so that individuals can receive payments immediately as opposed to checks in the mail.

» I am not typically required to file a tax return. Can I still receive my payment?

Yes. People who typically do not file a tax return will need to file a simple tax return to receive an economic impact payment. Low-income taxpayers, senior citizens, Social Security recipients, some veterans



and individuals with disabilities who are otherwise not required to file a tax return will not owe tax.

» How can I file the tax return needed to receive my economic impact payment?

IRS.gov/coronavirus will soon provide information instructing people in these groups on how to file a 2019 tax return with simple, but necessary, information including their filing status, number of dependents and direct deposit bank account information.

» I have not filed my tax return for 2018 or 2019. Can I still receive an economic impact payment?

Yes. The IRS urges anyone with a tax filing obligation who has not yet filed a tax return for 2018 or 2019 to file as soon as they can to receive an economic impact payment. Taxpayers should include direct deposit banking information on the return.

» I need to file a tax return. How long are the economic impact payments available?

For those concerned about visiting a tax professional or local community organization in person to get help with a tax return, these economic impact payments will be available throughout the rest of 2020.

» Where can I get more information?

The IRS will post all key information on IRS.gov/

coronavirus as soon as it becomes available.

The IRS has a reduced staff in many of its offices but remains committed to helping eligible individuals receive their payments expeditiously. Check for updated information on [IRS.gov/coronavirus](https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus) rather than calling IRS assistors who are helping process 2019 returns.

The IRS announcement comes a few days after President Trump signed a bipartisan legislation on March 27 to provide relief to American families and workers during the coronavirus outbreak.

The CARES Act, which is described by the White House as an "unprecedented relief package," totals more than \$2 trillion. It is said to provide much needed economic relief for American families and

businesses who are hurting through no fault of their own. The legislation is said to provide assistance to America's heroic healthcare workers who are on the frontlines of this outbreak.

According to the White House press release, \$100 billion will go to healthcare providers, including hospitals on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic. \$27 billion will go to bolstering life-saving capabilities, including developing vaccines and the development, purchase, and distribution of critical supplies. \$45 billion will go to the Federal Emergency Management Agency Disaster Relief Fund, more than doubling the amount available to support the President's Emergency and Disaster Declarations to empower State, local, and tribal leaders to effectively respond.

Please let us resolve to

No hugs and No handshake.



Federation of Indian
Associations (FIA)
NY-NJ-CT



**Just
Namaste!**

We can come back to all that after this pandemic is over. Which it will. It always has.

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