

DIASPORA BI-WEEKLY

Federation of Indian Associations NY-NJ-CT. 501(C)3
The Largest Non-Profit Grassroot Umbrella Organization in the Tri-state of NY-NJ-CT

Sunday / September 27, 2020

Issue: 19

An initiative by FIA

100% VOLUNTEER RUN ORGANIZATION EST. 1970



FIA Recognized as COVID Hero by Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams



Guidelines for Travel to India



Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a Tireless Champion of Justice, Gender Equality and Icon for Women's Rights, Dies at 87

FIA Recognized as COVID Hero by Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams

The Federation of Indian Associations of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut (FIA-Tri-state) was recognized as one of the "COVID Everyday Heroes" by Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams. At a ceremony held on the steps of the Brooklyn Borough Hall on Sept. 22, President Eric Adams honored 87 people and organizations, including the FIA, for making a difference in their community during the pandemic. "We know more people did not lose their lives because of heroes and sheroes that are here today and we thank you for that," President Adams said. As part of it's community outreach during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, FIA distributed more than 3,000 meals to first responders and 1,000 face shields made by children. The FIA leadership is motivated by this recognition and is motivated and inspired in its future endeavors.



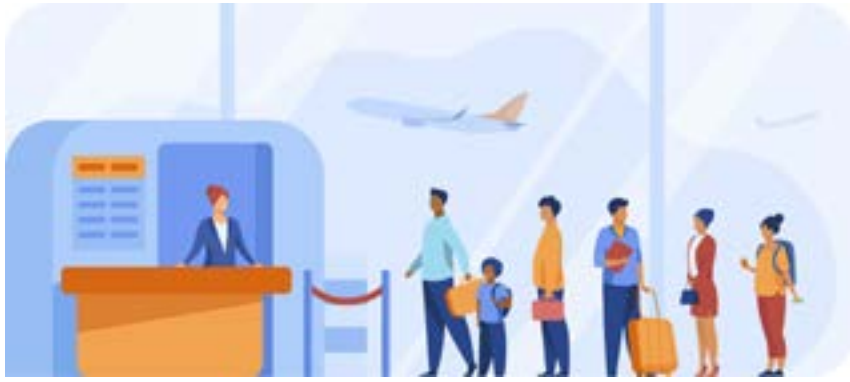
Voluntary Content Compilation
FIA NY-NJ-CT and
Community Volunteers

Voluntary Editor
Bhargavi Kulkarni

Contributors
Chandrakant Trivedi,
Amit Yadav

Voluntary Graphic
Compilation
Gracia Marcom

Guidelines for Travel to India



The Government of India Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has issued guidelines for people traveling to India amid the COVID-19 pandemic. As per the guidelines, which went into effect last month, it is mandatory that travelers follow a seven-day institutional quarantine, followed by home isolation for another seven days. Exceptions will be given in a few cases – human distress, pregnancy, death in family, serious illness and parents accompanied by children below 10 years of age. They will be asked to self-isolate at home for 14 days.

Below are the guidelines are issued by the Government of India Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Before Planning for Travel:

- I. All travelers should submit self-declaration form on the online portal (www.newdelhiaairport.in) at least 72 hours before the scheduled travel.
- II. They should also give an undertaking on the portal that they would undergo mandatory quarantine for 14 days i.e. 7 days paid institutional quarantine at their own cost, followed by 7 days isolation at home with self-monitoring of health.
- III. Only for compelling reasons/ cases of human distress such as pregnancy, death in family, serious illness and parent(s) with children of the age of 10 years or below, home quarantine may be permitted for 14 days.
- IV. If they wish to seek such exemption under para (iii) above, they shall apply to the online portal (www.newdelhiaairport.in) at least 72 hours before boarding. The decision taken by the government as communicated on the online portal will be final.
- V. Travelers may also seek exemption from institutional quarantine by submitting a negative RT-PCR test report on arrival. This test should have been conducted within 96 hrs prior to undertaking the journey. The test report should be uploaded on the portal for consideration. Each passenger shall also submit a declaration

with respect to authenticity of the report and will be liable for criminal prosecution, if found otherwise. The test report could also be produced upon arrival at the point of entry airport in India.

Before Boarding

- I. Do's and Don'ts shall be provided along with ticket to the travelers by the agencies concerned.
- II. All passengers shall be advised to download Arogya Setu app on their mobile devices.
- III. At the time of boarding the flight/ ship, only asymptomatic travelers will be allowed to board after thermal screening.
- IV. Passengers arriving through the land borders will also have to undergo the same protocol as above, and only those who are asymptomatic will be enabled to cross the border into India.
- V. Suitable precautionary measures such as environmental sanitation and disinfection shall be ensured at the airports.
- VI. During boarding and at the airports, all possible measures to ensure social distancing to be ensured

During Travel

1. Travelers who had not filled in self-declaration form on the portal shall fill the same in duplicate in the flight/ship and a copy of the same will be given to Health and Immigration officials present at the airport/ seaport/ landport. Alternatively, such travelers may submit self-declaration form on the online portal at arriving airport/ seaport/ landport as per the directions of the concerned authorities, if such facility is available.
2. Suitable announcement about COVID-19 including precautionary measures to be followed shall be made at airports/port and in flights/ships and during transit.
3. While on board the flight/ ship, required precautions such as wearing of masks, environmental hygiene, respiratory hygiene, hand hygiene etc. are to be observed by airline/ ship staff, crew and all passengers.

On arrival

- I. Deboarding should be done ensuring Social distancing.
- II. Thermal screening would be carried out in respect of all the passengers by the Health officials present at the airport/ seaport/ landport. The self-declaration form filled online shall be shown (or a copy of physical self-declaration

- form to be submitted) to the airport health staff.
- III. The passengers found to be symptomatic during screening shall be immediately isolated and taken to medical facility as per health protocol.
 - IV. Post thermal screening, the passengers who have been exempted from institutional quarantine (decision as indicated on the online portal in advance) will show the same to the respective State Counters on their cell phones/other mode before being allowed home quarantine for 14 days.
 - V. The remaining passengers shall be taken to suitable institutional quarantine facilities, to be arranged by the respective State/ UT Governments.
 - VI. These passengers shall be kept under institutional quarantine for a minimum period of 7 days. They shall be tested as per ICMR protocol available at <https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/Revisedtestingguidelines.pdf>. If they test positive, they shall be assessed clinically.
 - a. If they are assessed as asymptomatic / pre-symptomatic/ very mild cases, they will be allowed home isolation or isolated in the Covid Care Centre (both public & private facilities) as appropriate.
 - b. Those having mild/ moderate/ severe symptoms will be admitted to dedicated Covid Health facilities and managed accordingly.
 - VII. If found negative, they shall be advised to further isolate themselves at home and self-monitor their health for 7 days.
 - VIII. In case, any symptoms develop they shall inform the district surveillance officer or the State/national call center (1075).
- NOTE:** States can develop their own protocol with regards to quarantine and isolation as per their assessment post arrival of passengers in the state concerned.

FIA's Appeal to Donate to a Worthy Cause

The Federation of Indian Associations of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut (FIA Tristate), the largest grassroots nonprofit umbrella organization, established in 1970, is celebrating its Golden Jubilee by hosting year-long programs and projects of five decades of meritorious service to the community.

The FIA, under its young and dynamic leadership is indeed proud and privileged to launch the most momentous global event serving the needy. As a symbol of our commitment, the FIA has planned to serve people in seven locations in the tri-state area. FIA plans to organize similar meals in India as well.

We are delighted to share that Hon. Consul General of India, Randhir Jaiswal, has graciously supported and blessed this project, and has assured to help us reach our goals successfully, as a partner and a promoter.

Staying true to the proverb, "charity begins at home," the FIA leadership has graciously donated to help launch this fundraising drive for this project.

We sincerely appeal to our vast and vibrant community, our loyal sponsors, donors, well-wishers and volunteers, to donate generously to this fund to enable FIA to undertake similar endeavors in the future.

Incidentally, this fundraiser coincides with Purushottam Maas or Adhik Maas, in which all kinds of donations are suggested by our shastras, gurus and religious preachers. We urge each

and everyone of you to support this initiative.

The sponsorship categories are as follows:

\$1,000: Platinum Sponsor

\$ 500: Gold Sponsor

\$250: Silver Sponsor

All your contributions are tax-deductible.

Please make your check payable to Federation of Indian Associations and mail it to:

Amit Ringasia

49, Violet Court

Monroe, NJ 08831

For update on FIA activities: Please visit www.fianynjct.org



SBI Announces Safer Cash Withdrawals From ATMs Using One-Time Password

By Chandrakant Trivedi



State Bank of India, the largest and oldest commercial bank in India has the distinguished track record of serving the Indian community back home and abroad. In the United States, the first branch of the SBI was opened on 460, Park Avenue in New York, more than five decades ago. Since then it has been in the forefront, for not just helping customers and businesses, but also helping many organizations and organizations as well. The Federation of India Associations of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut (FIA-Tri-state) has been receiving their support for the annual India Day Parade and other events.

Recently, the SBI management in India announced safer and wiser changes in withdrawal of money from ATMs. As per the announcement, which appeared in Indian newspapers, the SBI introduced cash withdrawal from an ATM with a One-Time Password (OTP), 24/7, beginning Sept. 18. Through this new facility, SBI hopes to minimize identity and debt fraud. The fraud cases had increased significantly during the lockdown.

Below are some interesting facts about the SBI:

- It is the largest commercial bank in India with an illustrious 214 year history. Bank of Calcutta, established in 1806 was the first bank in India. It later became part of the SBI.
- In 1921, Bank of Bombay and Bank of Madras were merged into the Imperial Bank of India.
- In 1955, the Government of India passed the State Bank of India Act, and under the Reserve Bank of India they bought the controlling share in the Imperial Bank of India. Thereafter, the Government of India passed a bill renaming the Imperial Bank of India as the State Bank of India.
- In 1959, the Government of India passed the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act. This made eight banks that had belonged to princely states into subsidiaries of SBI. This was at the time of the First Five Year Plan, which prioritized the development of rural India.
- The Reserve Bank of India controls all the banks and formulates policies. In 2008, the Government of India took away its share from the SBI to eliminate any conflict of interest.
- The SBI is headquartered in Mumbai, the financial capital of India. It has more than 22,000 branches and 58,000 ATMs in India. Outside India, it has 208 offices. It has more than 2.5 lakh employees and over 43.5 crore customers.
- The SBI is ranked 54th among large banks worldwide and is ranked 236th in the Fortune Global 500 list of the world's biggest corporations of 2019.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a Tireless Champion of Justice, Gender Equality and Icon for Women's Rights, Dies at 87

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the second woman to serve on the Supreme Court and a pioneering advocate for women's right, died on Sept. 18, at her home in Washington, D.C., of complications of metastatic pancreatic cancer. She was 87. "Our nation has lost a jurist of historic stature," Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. said of Justice Ginsburg. "We at the Supreme Court have lost a cherished colleague. Today we mourn, but with



confidence that future generations will remember Ruth Bader Ginsburg as we knew her - a tireless and resolute champion of justice." Justice Ginsburg was appointed to the Supreme Court by President Clinton in 1993.

She is survived by her two children: Jane Carol Ginsburg (George Spera) and James Steven Ginsburg (Patrice Michaels), four grandchildren: Paul Spera (Francesca Toich), Clara Spera (Rory Boyd), Miranda Ginsburg, Abigail Ginsburg, two step-grandchildren: Harjinder Bedi, Satinder Bedi, and one great-grandchild: Lucrezia Spera. Her husband, Martin David Ginsburg, died in 2010. Harjinder Bedi and Satinder Bedi are Justice Ginsburg's son James Ginsburg's step-children, from his wife Patrice Michael's first marriage. After divorcing his first wife, Lisa Brauston, James Ginsburg married opera singer Patrice Michaels, in 2010, who was previously married to Rajinder Bedi, a Sikh entrepreneur, with whom she has two sons, Harjinder Bedi and Satinder Bedi.

Justice Ginsburg was born in Brooklyn, New York, on March 15, 1933 to Nathan and Cecelia Bader, and grew up in a low-income, working class neighborhood. Cecelia herself did not attend college, but instead worked in a garment factory to help pay for her brother's college education, an act of selflessness that forever impressed Ginsburg. At James Madison High School in Brooklyn, Ginsburg worked diligently and excelled in her studies.

Her mother struggled with cancer throughout Ginsburg's high school years, and died the day before Ginsburg's graduation. She graduated from Cornell University in 1954, finishing first in her class. She married Martin D. Ginsburg, also a law student, that same year. Ginsburg's family was Jewish. Ginsburg's mother, a major influence in her life, taught her the value of independence and a good education.

According to Justice Ginsburg's biography on history.com, the early years of their marriage were challenging, as their first child, Jane, was born shortly after Martin was drafted into the military in 1954. He served for two years and, after his discharge, the couple returned to Harvard where Ginsburg also enrolled.

At Harvard, Ginsburg learned to balance life as a mother and her new role as a law student. She also encountered a very male-dominated, hostile environment, with only eight females in her class of 500.

The women were chided by the law school's dean for taking the places of qualified males. But Ginsburg pressed on and excelled academically, eventually becoming the first female member of the prestigious legal journal, the Harvard Law Review.

Soon after, Justice Ginsburg was faced with another challenge: her husband contracted testicular cancer in 1956, requiring intensive treatment and rehabilitation. Ginsburg attended to her young daughter and convalescing husband, taking notes for him in classes while she continued her own law studies.



Martin recovered, graduated from law school, and accepted a position at a New York law firm. Ginsburg transferred to Columbia Law School in New York City to join her husband, where she was elected to the school's law review. She graduated first in her class in 1959.

Despite her outstanding academic record, however, Ginsburg continued to encounter gender discrimination while seeking employment after graduation. After clerking for U.S. District Judge Edmund L. Palmieri, she taught at Rutgers University Law School (1963-72) and at Columbia (1972-80), where she became the school's first female tenured professor.

During the 1970s, she also served as the director of the Women's Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), for which she argued six landmark cases on gender equality before the U.S. Supreme Court.

However, she also believed that the law was gender-blind and all groups were entitled to equal rights. One of the five cases she won before the Supreme Court involved a portion of the Social Security Act that favored women over men because it granted certain benefits to widows but not widowers.

In 1980, President Jimmy Carter appointed Ruth Bader Ginsburg to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. She served there until she was appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1993 by President Bill Clinton, selected to fill the seat vacated by Justice Byron White.

President Clinton wanted a replacement with the intellect and political skills to deal with the more conservative members of the Court. The Senate Judiciary Committee hearings were unusually friendly, despite frustration expressed by some senators over Ginsburg's evasive answers to hypothetical situations.

Several expressed concern over how she could transition from social advocate to Supreme Court Justice. In the end, she was easily confirmed by the Senate, 96-3. Ginsburg became the court's second female justice as well as the first Jewish female justice.

As a judge, Ginsburg was considered part of the Supreme Court's moderate-liberal bloc, presenting a strong voice in favor of gender equality, the rights of workers and the separation of

church and state.

In 1996, Ginsburg wrote the Supreme Court's landmark decision in *United States v. Virginia*, which held that the state-supported Virginia Military Institute could not refuse to admit women. In 1999, she won the American Bar Association's Thurgood Marshall Award for her contributions to gender equality and civil rights.

Despite her reputation for restrained writing, she gathered considerable attention for her dissenting opinion in the case of *Bush v. Gore*, which effectively decided the 2000 presidential election between George W. Bush and Al Gore.

Objecting to the court's majority opinion favoring Bush, Ginsburg deliberately and subtly concluded her decision with the words, "I dissent" a significant departure from the tradition of including the adverb "respectfully." She continues to promote women's rights from the High Court and will undoubtedly play a pivotal role in many controversial cases in the future.

On June 27, 2010, Ruth Bader Ginsburg's husband, Martin, died of cancer. She described Martin as her biggest booster and "the only young man I dated who cared that I had a brain."

Married for 56 years, as a couple, they were said to be quite different: Martin was gregarious, loved to entertain and tell jokes while Ruth was serious, soft-spoken and shy. Martin provided a reason for their successful union: "My wife doesn't give me any advice about cooking and I don't give her any advice about the law."

Playback Singer S.P. Balasubrahmanyam Dies of COVID-19

Renowned playback singer S.P. Balasubrahmanyam died on Sept. 25 of complications from COVID-19. He was 74 and is survived by his wife, Savitri Balasubrahmanyam, and his children, SPB Charan and S. P. Sailaja, both playback singers. Balasubrahmanyam was hospitalized in August at MGM Healthcare after testing positive for COVID-19. He was eventually put on a ventilator and ECMO support.

Popularly known as SPB, Balasubrahmanyam holds a Guinness world record for singing more than 40,000 songs over 50 years in as many as 16 languages including Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, and Hindi. He made his singing debut in 1966 with the Telugu movie "Sri Sri Sri Maryada Ramanna." Balasubrahmanyam's first major breakthrough in southern films came when he sang for Tamil superstar MG Ramachandran in a 1969 film "Adimai Penn."

He sang for top composers of his time, including A.R. Rahman and Ilaiyaraaja. His breakthrough Bollywood film came in 1981 when he sang for "Ek Duuje Ke Like," and, despite his marked southern accent and became the 'singing voice' for Bollywood superstars such as Salman Khan.

Film and music fraternity from the south and Bollywood and elected lawmakers flooded social media to offer their condolences on SPB's demise.

"A household name across India, his melodious voice and music enthralled audiences for decades," Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted. "In this hour of grief, my thoughts are with his family and admirers. Om Shanti."

President Ram Nath Kovind also took to Twitter to offer condolences. "In the passing of music legend SP Balasubrahmanyam Indian music has lost one of its most melodious voices," he wrote. "Called 'Paadam Nila' or 'Singing Moon' by his countless fans, he was honored with Padma Bhushan and many National Awards. Condolences to his family, friends and admirers."

Born in 1946 into a middle class family from Nellore in Andhra Pradesh, Balasubrahmanyam broke many social norms despite his traditional upbringing. Although his father was a devotional singer, Balasubrahmanyam did not go through the rigors of learning classical music. Instead, he moved to then Madras (now Chennai) as a young man and formed a band with his friends. It included



Ilaiyaraaja. Balasubrahmanyam later dropped out from engineering studies in college to take up singing after he was talent-spotted at a music competition by local film music composers.

"I planned to be an engineer. Then music turned the course of my life. I realized not to plan and let things play out for me," he told BBC in an earlier interview.

He was a sought after singer through the 1970s until the end of the last decade, and became the highest paid singer in southern India. He hopped from one music studio to another, recording as many as three new songs every day for more than two decades. At the height of his popularity he once spent 17 hours in a single day recording songs for different composers.

In 1981, Balasubrahmanyam created a record by recording 21 new songs in the Kannada language from morning until night for a film music composer. He received two of India's top civilian honors: Padma Shri in 2001 and Padma Bhushan in 2011.

In 2013, Balasubrahmanyam broke his 15-year hiatus from Bollywood by recording the title song for "Chennai Express" for Shah Rukh Khan, under the music direction of Vishal-Shekhar.

This May, he sang "Bharath Bhoomi," which was composed by Ilaiyaraaja as a tribute to the people such as police, army, doctors, nurses and janitors who have been significantly working amid COVID-19 pandemic. The video song was officially unveiled by Ilaiyaraaja through his official YouTube account on May 30 in both Tamil and Hindi.

Apart from singing, Balasubrahmanyam accidentally became a dubbing artist with K. Balachander's film "Manmadha Leela," the dubbed Telugu version of "Manmadha Leelai," providing voice-over for Kamal Haasan. He has also provided voice-overs for various artists, including Rajinikanth, Vishnuvardhan, Salman Khan, K. Bhagyaraj, Mohan, Anil Kapoor, Girish Karnad, Gemini Ganesan, Arjun Sarja, Nagesh, Karthik, and Raghuvaran in various languages. He was assigned as the default dubbing artist for Kamal Haasan in Telugu-dubbed versions of Tamil films. He also dubbed for Ben Kingsley in the Telugu-dubbed version of "Gandhi."