

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**South Asians launch FOSAAC to address community needs**

■ **LOS ANGELES, CALIF:** Three public events—all political—organized by members of the Indian, Bangladeshi and Pakistani communities for creating awareness of their community needs raised the need for a consolidated organization and resulted in Friends of the South Asian Communities in the US (FOSAAC). The organization was born as an umbrella unit and will be including the Nepali, Burmese and Bhutan communities in future.

The mission of FOSAAC is to conduct and promote activities of common interest to South Asians, to preserve and popularize South Asian culture and heritage and to work together to give visibility to the communities in city, state and national mainstream politics. For more information contact FOSAAC at 562-572-8751.

**Varun Khanna's *Beyond Honour* to be premiered in Beverly Hills**

■ **BEVERLY HILLS, CALIF:** Movie *Beyond Honor*, featuring Varun Khanna as a debut film writer and director, will have its premier screening at the Laemmle Music Hall in Beverly Hills.

The film is the story of a young Egyptian American woman in California who is wedged between two distinct worlds. Woven into the storyline, the dynamics of power and gender roles in a small claustrophobic community interface with the modern social pressures. Sahira, a young beautiful woman is bound by tradition, yet drawn to the unknown that leads her to a night of freedom and sexual expression. When her secret gets disclosed to the family, all hell breaks loose and she is punished for the dishonor she brings to the family.



A scene from the movie *Beyond Honour*

**Kenati to expand Pune R&D center following INC3 Ventures investment**

■ **SUNNYVALE, CALIF:** Kenati Technologies of Sunnyvale, California, will expand its research and development center in Pune, following an undisclosed investment by INC3 Ventures. Kenati is a provider of linux-based software to wired and wireless networks. In addition, Shimant Bhayani, co-founder and managing partner at INC3 Ventures has joined on the Kenati's Board of Directors.

**\$25 million funding for MyRichUncle**

■ **SAN MATEO, CALIF:** MyRichUncle, specializing in educational finances and loans has received \$25 million funding

from San Mateo, California-based Battery Ventures and Merrill Lynch Investment Managers Pvt. Equity partners.

CEO Vishal Garg and co-founder of parent company MRU Holdings announced the growth of MyRichUncle brand name and the enhanced services for the growing financial needs of students.

**Meritorious service award for eSilicon's J. Bhaskar**

■ **SUNNYVALE, CALIF:** The IEEE Computer Society has awarded Sunnyvale, California-based eSilicon Corporation's chief architect J. Bhaskar a meritorious service certificate. The e-Silicon Corporation is a fabless ASIC chip design company manufacturing and designing custom chips for the world's leading electronics companies.

Chief Architect J. Bhaskar is the author of 19 books on hardware languages and synthesis algorithms for electronic design. He holds a Ph.D. in Computer and Information Sciences from University of Minnesota and a M.S. in Computer technology from IIT Delhi.

**'Star e-Remit' service for NRIs from Bank of India**

■ **SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF:** The Bank of India having over 2500 branches in India has introduced a web based service 'Star e-Remit' through which NRIs can remit money from US. M. Balachandran, Bank of India's chairman and managing director recently met clients and officials of the Federal Reserve Bank and Department of Financial Institutions in San Francisco. The Bank of India office in San Francisco is located at 55 California St # 4646, San Francisco, 94104. Telephone: (415) 956-6326.

**Fremont program for Indian seniors**

SAM RAO

Fremont, Calif

EVERYDAY the Indian American seniors in Fremont area gather at the hub mall, opposite the local McDonalds—where they have negotiated a cup of coffee for 10 cents each. This corner is the daily 'hang out' for these seniors as they lacked one of their own till now.

Starting this week, though, the seniors of Fremont area will have another option. The Indian Community Center (ICC), based in Milpitas, in partnership with the Fremont's Human Derives Department, has offered its Seniors Program in Fremont.

The free program is scheduled to held at the Fremont Community Center, 40000 Paseo Padre Parkway (adjacent to Lake Elizabeth) on the first and third Mondays of each month, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This service will be in addition to the bi-monthly Tuesday programs currently underway at the center. Activities will include meditation, yoga, Bollywood dance, discussions on social issues, talent shows and a potluck lunch.

"Funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, one of our key goals is to partner with organizations that will help improve the quality of life for seniors in the Tri-City Area. Collaborating with ICC is part of our broader

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effort in the Aging, the Ultimate Adventure project," said Asha Chandra, marketing and communications coordinator at Fremont.

Although Fremont currently has a daily program for seniors of all communities at the Lake Elizabeth Senior center, Indian American seniors rarely join them—possibly due to language problems and cultural differences.

Barring couple of Tuesdays, when the local mainstream Fremont Senior Center hosts a special three-hour session for Indian American seniors, and sometimes an occasional visit to the Fremont Hindu Temple, not very easily accessible by public transport, many Indian American seniors are essentially "shut-ins."

**A dollar per Indian American for relief operations**

■ **NORWALK, CALIF:** United Southern California Indian American Charitable Trust, an Indian-American organization, here has set up an innovative way to collect fund for its various charity works, in particular funding disaster relief operations. A dollar a person, a scheme that requests every Indian American to donate a dollar per person or \$ 5 per family.

The first of its fund-raising drive was launched at a function here recently. The Katrina Relief Fund—the effort will specifically focus towards uniting Indian Americans in Southern California to raise \$500,000.

The idea of this unique fund raising drive was a result of the poor response that the Sanatan Dharma Temple received for its appeal for prayer service and fundraiser night for the victims of Hurricane Katrina in September 2005.

"This way no one feels the pinch and our goal of \$500,000 can be achieved even if just one-fourth of the two million Indian Americans contribute," said Natu Patel, member of the Trust. —ENS

