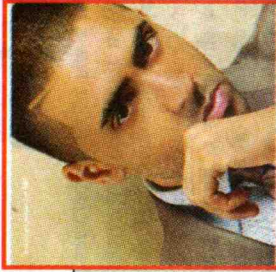
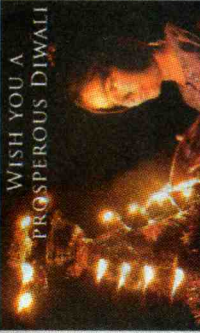




9 JHMA Diwali Mela pleases all



6 Hip-hop star with Punjab roots tops US charts

Congress in a commanding position in the latest polls

Prof.I.S. Saluja

NEW YORK (TIP) With the Congress riding high after the surprise victory in the last general elections, and the main opposition, Bharatiya Janata Party, sinking deeper into depression, the outcome of the just completed assembly elections in the three states was a foregone conclusion.



Indeed, exit polls show that the Congress party, along with its poll partner Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), is set to have an upper hand in Maharashtra and secure an outright win on its own in Haryana as millions voted Tuesday in largely peaceful assembly elections. The third state that went to polls is Arunachal Pradesh, the northeastern state which has been in the news lately because of Chinese claims to its territory. There too Congress is expected to retain power.

Nassau County declares October 11th Baba Ramdev Day

It was not an ordinary day for many in Nassau County. Imagine the top executive of the County, with many other county officials coming on a Sunday to the Executive Chambers. It could not be an ordinary event. It certainly wasn't; neither for the Indian American community nor for the Nassau County administration.

11th October will henceforth be known as Baba Ramdev Day in Nassau County, decreed the Nassau County Chief Executive Tom Souzzi who also

presented the proclamation to Baba Ramdev. Nassau County will help set up Patanjali Yoga Center because the Chief Executive desires to see Nassau County as the healthiest County in the Country, as it is the safest County, with the lowest crime rate in the country.

Baba Ramdev, internationally recognized as the health guru "sans" medication was in New York on a whistle stop trip on way to India. Baba had come here from Houston where he had gone to finalize a deal to set up Patanjali Yoga Center. One of his admirers is



Obama Celebrates Diwali in White House



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When election results are declared Oct 22, in Haryana the incumbent chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda is certain to retain his chair. "The Congress will sweep this election," Hooda said. Star News expected the Congress to win 57 seats, 2 less than in the last assembly elections, in the 90-member house and retain power. The fairly popular chief minister had the previous assembly dissolved seven months before its term was to end and sought fresh mandate.

Both Star News-Nielson exit polls and IBN-Lokmat projections suggested a split verdict in the 288-seat Maharashtra assembly with the Congress and Sharad Pawar's NCP combine bagging the most number of seats. **CONTD ON PAGE 29**

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Baba Ramdev at the press conference. (L to R): Mohinder S. Taneja, Baba Ramdev, Animesh Goenka, Sudhir Vaishnav

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Center. One of his admirers is reported to have donated a piece of land on which the center is to come up. There are many who are ready to chip in for a cause as noble and laudable as Baba's.

CONTD ON PAGE 32 & 33



President Barack Obama lights the traditional Diya

Photo/ Mohamed Jaffer/Snapsindia

Prof. I.S. Saluja

WASHINGTON (TIP): President Barack Obama on Wednesday, October 14 became the first US President to personally **CONTD ON PAGE 29**

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Nassau County declares October 11th Baba Ramdev Day

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

A prominent businessman, Animesh (Andy) Goenka who is also the national president of Association of Americans in India and has an enviable status in the social world of Indian Americans said he was convinced that Baba Ramdev Ji could keep the whole world healthy without administering a medication. He said he had found his yoga exercises were enough to keep disease away. Animesh is leading Indian Americans in supporting Baba Ramdev's movement to provide health to the whole world.

It was on the invitation of Animesh and other admirers of his that Baba Ramdev visited New York for a few hours on October 11. The meeting was arranged in the ornate Executive Chamber of Nassau County which came up a couple of years ago with the effort of the present Chief Executive of the County, Tom Souzzi.

In a chamber packed to capacity with around a thousand souls, Baba Ramdev declared that he was an idol of three crore Indians who have been cured of their ailments through his Pranayam and a hundred crore people of India who watched him perform yogic exercises on television and said he would like to be viewed as such by the rest of the world.

He said only self control was required to take control of one's health. No medicine was needed, he said, to remain healthy. All that was required was a regular cleaning up of lungs and the respiratory system, the digestive system and maintaining a proper blood circulation. All this could be achieved, Baba said, by having control over one's breathing. In a lighter vein, he made fun of those who snore. He said snoring was a breathing disorder as were hypertension and certain other ailments. "The medicine is within yourself", said Baba Ramdev.

Apart from the health aspect on which he dwelt at length, Baba also spoke of his resolve to Indianize health system, educational system and economic system in the next five years, a claim that has been subjected to a lot of scrutiny in the media in India. I remember a gentleman remarking later, "Baba Ji is reliable in as far as health aspect is concerned. But when he speaks of bringing about revolutionary



Baba blesses Darshan S. Bagga and his wife Loveleen Bagga

Nassau County
Chief Executive

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Earlier, addressing a "press conference" which was not much of a press conference, first because there were very few media persons, and second, because, except for two journalists who asked a few questions, questions were fielded by non media persons. Also, in many cases questions asked were hardly audible.

To a question from The Indian Panorama chief editor as to when his yoga center would come up in New York/New Jersey area, Baba Ramdev disclosed that land was already obtained and soon construction work would start. He said it might take a year or so before the center came up. However, he said, training program for the Yoga teachers would start earlier.

The mesmerized audience listened to Baba with rapt attention. Except for a few guffaws of laughter when he cracked a joke, there was almost pin drop silence. And it was no ordinary gathering. There were the best known Indian American faces of New York in the audience, including Air India Executive Director for Americas, Chitra Sarkar whom organizers recognized and Baba blessed, as also the Nassau County officials. Not one person seemed to miss a word that Baba Ramdev said.

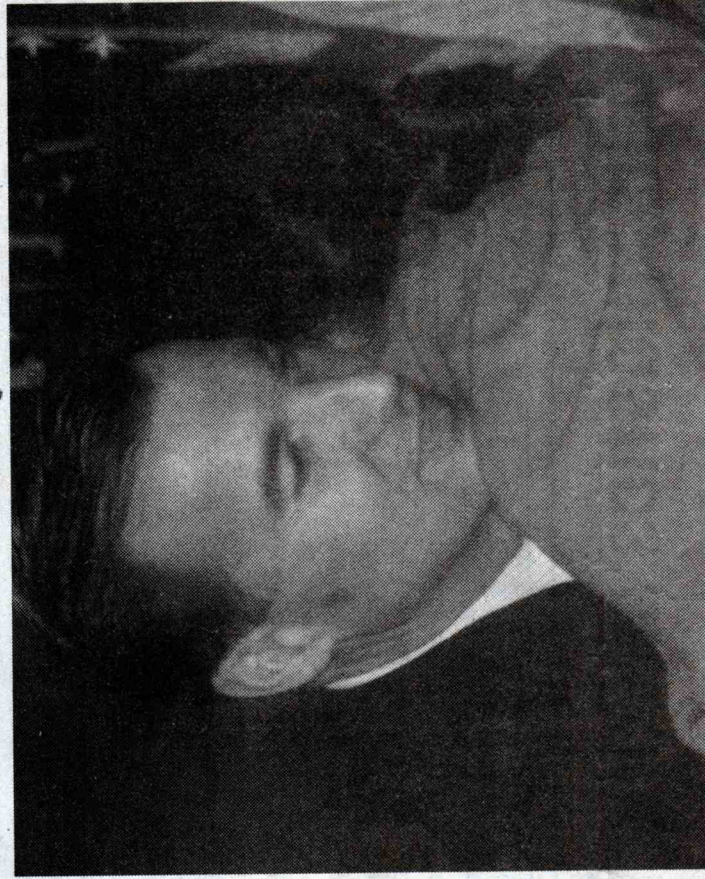
And at the end of the talk, people jostled to reach Baba Ramdev, to touch his feet, to feel him, and if not, have a close look at him. Some women were seen rushing towards him to get his autograph while some others asked for a memento. It was basically a feminine affair.

Since Baba had to take a flight and he was getting late, Animesh took charge of the situation and wrestling with the milling crowd of autograph seekers and the photograph crazy, escorted Baba to the waiting car to reach him in time to John F. Kennedy Airport where Baba was to get on to a Jet Airways flight to India.

Nassau County Minority Affairs Director Mohinder Singh Taneja, Dr. Indu Jaiswal, Surender Rametia, Neil Modi and a couple of other people were seen managing the show. Modi acquitted himself well as master of ceremonies while Mohinder did the running around. Indu, as usual, played a supporting role.



Baba blesses Darshan S. Bagga and his wife Loveleen Bagga



**Nassau County
Chief Executive
Tom Souzzi hugs
Baba Ramdev**

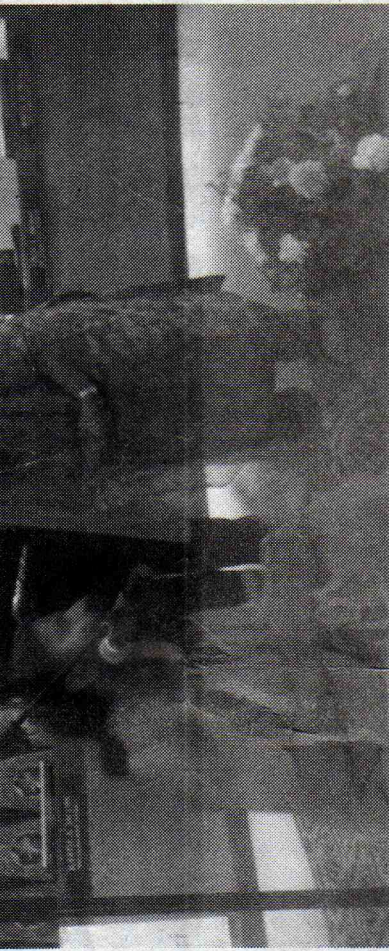


**Animesh Goenka and
Harjinder Singh Duggal
escort Baba to the waiting
car**



Tom Souzzi presents the Proclamation to Baba Ramdev. Others in the picture (from L to R): John Kayman, Gurdip S. Narula (partially seen) , Indu Jaiswal and Mohinder S. Taneja





Baba has a word with Satnam Kaur Taneja, Mohinder S. Taneja's mother. Mohinder is also seen



**Air India
Executive
Director for
Americas,
Chitra
Sarkar
receives
blessings
from Baba
Ramdev**



**Neil Modi
receives
Baba's
blessings**



Baba Ramdev demonstrates various yogic exercises