

# S Asians seek joint council at Sheriff Office

KALYANI VASAN

Los Angeles

A GROUP of South Asian community members has met Sheriff Leroy D Baca and Commander Roberta seeking an advisory council for the South Asia region. While advisory councils for individual countries, including India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, already exist, a Los Angeles County Sheriff's South Asian Council is being sought to promote and encourage relations between the Sheriff's Office and the community as a whole.

Kevin Kaul, President of the Sheriff's Advisory Council for the Indian American Community, is expected to serve as the Chair for the South Asian Council, making it a unified voice of people hailing from the region. The plan is to have as broad and diverse a spec-



South Asian community members with LA County Sheriff Lee Baca

trum of citizens serving on the council as possible.

Such advisory councils not only help the Sheriff's Office serve the county better, these also act as a conduit between the department and citizens, bringing community concerns to the Sheriff's attention, particularly in fields of immigration, homeland security and law enforcement. Apart from the South Asian

Council, plans are afoot to set up separate Nepalese and Sri Lankan councils too.

Underlining the purpose served by these advisory councils, the president of the Bangladesh chapter, Jalil Khan, says: "As card-carrying members of the council, we join hands with the Sheriff to promote greater understanding between diverse sections of the LA community. Our

goal is also to show that although we are a majority Muslim country, we are peace-loving. After 9/11 hate crimes are on the rise and the Bangladeshi community wants to work with the Sheriff to show that we are not terrorists."

Waqar Ali Khan, the new president of the Sheriff's Advisory Council for the Pakistani-American Community, stated that one of his goals was to educate the community about the extensive range of services available to county residents through the Sheriff's Office.

Formation of a South Asian advisory council isn't the first example of the diversified community joining hands in common interest. Recently, the Bangladeshi community had joined hands with the Indian community to support the election of LA Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

# Two held for murder of Indian businessman

SAM RAO

Berkeley

Two people have been arrested in connection with the murder of Indian-American businessman Ashok Malhotra, who was killed at a friend's apartment on January 21, making him violence-prone Richmond's first homicide victim of 2006.

The two were held on the US-Canada border, near Washington, apparently while trying to flee the country. While one of the suspects is a 38-year-old Pakistani, the other is a 22-year-

old Mexican. The Richmond Police Department has started extradition proceedings, in cooperation with Washington state police officials, to get the two men.

Hussain and Barajas were seized in the last week of January apparently while trying to dash across to Canada at the Peace Arch Border. They gave police a long chase and despite a shootout had nearly burst through the US side of the fence before they were caught.

Whatcom County Sheriff Bill Elfo said the suspects were first spotted at an Interstate 5 rest stop and given chase by police and border

officials before a Deputy Sheriff used his official SUV to ram the fleeing suspects' car. When the suspects still didn't stop, the US Border police and Customs enforcement agents opened fire.

While Ishtiaq Hussain of Pakistan was shot and had to be taken to hospital, Jose Barajas was arrested on the spot.

Forty-three-old Malhotra, a resident of San Pablo, was shot during a meeting with "former business associates" at a friend's place, according to the Richmond Police Department. There were several witnesses to the crime, helping police narrow in on Hussain and Barajas as suspects. The two were featured on a statewide APB (All Points Bulletin) and reported to be fleeing in a stolen vehicle, a Silver 2006 Nissan Xterra.



Ishtiaq Hussain and Jose Barajas

# Dollar isn't the only green on their minds

FOR the first generation of Indian American immigrants, entrepreneurship was more driven by need rather than choice. The intent was clearly to put food on the table through hard work and profitable businesses. Social conscientiousness was not factored in in many of these ventures. For the next generation, it's a different story. Enjoying the fruits of their parents' hard work, the children of these immigrants are increasingly coupling the American dream with political correctness, health and environment issues. KALYANI VASAN talks to two young entrepreneurs whose businesses reflect the new mindset.

## CARTRIDGE WORLD

Kunal Gorakshaker has a simple question: "What good is it if we become successful at the cost of future generations?" So this 29-year-old University of California, Fullerton, graduate and his sister Poonam dug out money from own pockets and took an SBA loan to start Cartridge World. Now, says Gorakshaker, they are "the world's largest retailer for refilling services", with their lat-



Cartridge World opens shop in Cerritos

est franchise store opening in the city of Cerritos.

Pointing out that buying a new printer cartridge every time is neither cost-effective nor environmentally friendly, Gorakshaker says Cartridge World remanufactures laser printer cartridges and

refills inkjet printer cartridges. "Our refill services can save you up to 50 percent of the retail price of a new cartridge and by recycling cartridges you can help protect environment. Together, with these two strengths, we look forward to serving the community and being so-

## FACTFILE

### CATRIDGE

- 500 cartridges are thrown away every minute in the US alone
- More than 3.4 liters of oil is needed to make one new laser cartridge
- Laser printer cartridges account for over 90 pc of all throw-away cartridges
- A laser cartridge can take up to 450 years to decompose
- India is among the largest recipients of e-waste, which is then burnt over open fires
- Exposure to lead and mercury, the two major ingredients in cartridges, can lead to brain impairment, weakened nervous system and kidney failure.
- Inhalation of left-over toners in empty cartridges can cause cancer and impaired breathing

### OBESITY

- 60 million Americans over the age of 20 are clinically obese, while 16 pc of kids between 6-18 are obese
- This has resulted in a sharp increase in diabetes, arthritis, strokes and hypertension

cially responsible."

Being a "socially conscious person", he adds, "I am happy to find a business that can make money and is environmentally friendly. We have been taught in school and through the media to recycle and save our environment."

## JUICE IT UP

JUICE It Up is an idea that was waiting to be born. With more and more Americans becoming health-conscious, Ryan Chacko's health drink and snack store in Long Beach offering juices made entirely with organically grown products has been an instant hit.

"The average soda can contains seven teaspoons of sugar and pretty much nothing else. The sugars in the fruits and vegetables contained in our juices, smoothies and shakes are good sugars that your body needs," says Chacko, 30, a father and a second-generation Indian American.

According to him, the fiber content, the anti-oxidants and vitamins in their products all help build healthy bodies while tasting good. "As America braces to battle obesity," sums up Chacko, "Juice it Up's offerings with high nutritional yet low fat content can be part of the solution."

