

INDIA WEST

• North America's Most Honored Weekly Indian Newspaper • Periodicals Postage paid at San Leandro, CA, and at additional mailing offices.

VOL. XLVI NO. 15 • February 19, 2021

Incorporating: INDIA JOURNAL

www.indiawest.com • 50 CENTS

New Survey of Indian American Attitudes Divided on Direction of India and Support for Modi

Older respondents mostly approve of PM

By **SUNITA SOHRABJI**
India-West Staff Reporter

While the majority of Indian Americans approve of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's job performance and policy priorities, a younger generation is critical of the politician, revealed the latest Indian American Attitudes Survey released Feb. 9.

Overall, more than half of respondents over the age of 30 said they approved of the popular premier. But 43 percent of 18-29-year-olds said they disapproved of Modi; 37 percent of those with incomes above \$100,000 also cast their disapproval for the prime minister.

Modi has indefatigably attempted to woo the Indian American diaspora, and has courted the Indian American business community to invest in his nation.



File photo of a supporter cheering as Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks at NRG Stadium on Sept. 22, 2019 in Houston, Texas. In a recent survey, more than half of the Indian American respondents over the age of 30 said they approved of the popular premier. But 43 percent of 18-29-year-olds said they disapproved of Modi. (Sergio Flores/Getty Images)

U.S.-born citizens, Democrats, and non-Hindus also voted less favorably for Modi: 62 percent of Muslims said they disapproved of Modi's performance and policy priorities.

Modi also got weak approval ratings from non-speakers of Hindi.

The study, titled "How Do Indian Americans View India? Results From the 2020 Indian American Attitudes Survey," sampled 1,200 respondents, including U.S. born Indian citizens, naturalized citizens, and non-citizens. The survey was conducted by YouGov last September.

The report's authors are Sumitra Badrinathan, a researcher at the University of Pennsylvania; Devesh Kapur, director of Asia Programs and Starr Foundation Professor of South Asian Studies at The Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies; and Milan Vaishnav, director and Senior Fellow of the South Asia Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

[Cont. on page A15]

Double Masks for Maximum COVID Protection: UCSF Expert

By **SUNITA SOHRABJI**
India-West Staff Reporter

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. — Two masks are better than one for maximum COVID protection, especially indoors, advises University of California, San Francisco, infectious diseases expert Monica Gandhi.

The Indian American researcher and professor of medicine noted new guidelines released by the Centers for Disease Control, which — among other masking guidance — recommended wearing one disposable mask, such as a surgical mask, underneath a cloth mask. The second mask should push the edges of the inner mask against the wearer's face, for a snugger fit.

Gandhi said it doesn't matter which order you put the masks on. In her video demonstrating how to effectively double mask, Gandhi layered a surgical mask over a cloth one and then tamped both down for effective filtration.

Double masking is especially recommended for indoor social-



University of California, San Francisco, infectious diseases expert Monica Gandhi says double masking is necessary, especially when indoors with others, for COVID protection. "Outdoors, we have the advantage of ventilation," the Indian American researcher and professor of medicine told **India-West**. (cfr.ucsf.edu/news photo)

izing, Gandhi told **India-West**, noting: "Outdoors, we have the advantage of ventilation."

Depending on the thread count, cloth masks filter out only about 42 percent of particles, said the

researcher, noting that higher thread count masks could filter out up to 80 percent of particles.

"But you want 95 percent, especially in this time of new mutant variants," she said.

Along with the variants from the United Kingdom and South Africa, scientists have identified at least seven mutant variants evolving in the U.S. The variants are believed to be more contagious and more virulent.

At a Feb. 2 press briefing, Mark Ghaly, secretary of California's Health and Human Services Department, announced a sharp uptick in the number of COVID infections with mutant variants. Approximately 767 cases of the West Coast variant — B.1.429 — have been identified; the state has also seen 290 cases of the B.1.427 variant and 133 cases of the U.K. variant.

Gandhi said masks could still protect the wearer against a mutant variant of COVID. "These variants certainly haven't changed the nature of the virus such that a mask won't work," she explained to **India-West**. "All of our non-

[Cont. on page A14]

ONLY \$6/MO

Restrictions Apply

On **sling**

For more information
Call 855-348-3513

T/F ORIGINALS
Web Originals

GIRLS HOSTEL 2.0

ALL GIRLS • ONE CAMPUS • NO MERCY

STREAMING FROM **FEB 19TH**

SonyLIVUSA