

COMMUNITY

Chicagoans' bid to promote Nagpur as global city

Chicago: In an effort to give back the city its due, a group non-resident Indians (NRIs) have joined hands to promote city at global level on various international forums and formed a charitable trust, Nagpur First Charitable Trust to support the cause through various projects.

Dinesh Jain, a city engineer, who is now settled in Naperville, is the brain behind the effort. Speaking about the trust, Jain said that

Nagpur First is a platform to bring all Nagpurians, now living anywhere in the world and wishing to take the cause of the city, to contribute their bit for development of the city.

"The trust is bringing industrialists, businessmen, engineers and entrepreneurs from city and abroad to put in financial as well as academic help for the initiative," he said. Being a former student of the Visvesvaraya National

Institute of Technology (VNIT), Jain is also seeking help of his alma mater for the ambitious project. He was in Nagpur recently to rope in as much support as possible from local people and will be holding a series of programs in next few days. Two individuals from Nagpur who are helping him in the effort, are Amit Badiyani and Kushroo Poacha. "It is basically an effort to brand Nagpur in the world and present it to the interna-

tional community as a upcoming global city. Our supports are already negotiating the concept of a international sister city organization with the highest officials in cities where they are residing. We have also formed a Yahoo group which picks up all good news about city and publishes it on the Web site, www.nagpur-first.org," Jain said. Students can specially benefit from the trust as it will provide them development opportunities

through student exchange programs.

Vivek Bhagwatkar, Aniket Kaloti, Nishant Somalwar and Shashank Rao are lending a hand to the group of NRIs in their initiative. The trust will be providing help in both kind and cash to organizations and individuals interested in joining the forum. Those interested in joining hands with Nagpur First can mail in at dinesh@aagami.net and amitbadiyani.yahoo.com.

World tech network honor for Amit Goyal

Washington, DC: An eminent Indian-American scientist has been elected fellow of the prestigious World Technology Network for his innovative work in the field of material science.

Amit Goyal of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory's Materials Science and Technology Division has also been named a finalist for



for

US plans IPL-style cricket league

New York: Plans are underway to launch a Twenty20 cricket league in the US similar to the successful Indian Premier League, a top US cricket official says.

The chief of the USA Cricket Association, Don Lockerbie, said that potential commercial partners were being sought for the tournament.

The matches next year are planned for three venues, including a new cricket stadium that has been built in Florida.

national Cricket Council.

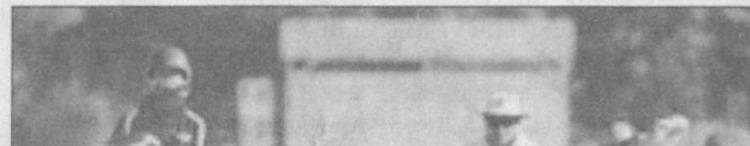
Many of the matches will be held at a new cricket stadium in Florida, which can accommodate over 15,000 fans.

What is still unclear is how the ICC will find a window in the crowded cricket calendar to accommodate the American tournament.

Also, memories of the flop

There is also an estimated 200,000 cricketers in America, according to Venu Palaparthi, co-founder of Dream-cricket.com, US's largest cricket portal which also runs its own cricket academy.

Palaparthi says cricket was being played in more than 40 universities over the last decade.



Canada at Bloomingdale Park in New York in 1844 with over 10,000 spectators in attendance.

Cricket remained popular till the middle of the 1880s — an American team even defeated the West Indies in an international match in British Guyana in 1880.

One reason, according to scholars, why cricket did not take off in America was that the game had no "common heritage" to draw on.

"Unfortunately, in the United