



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## BETWEEN US

A Newsletter of the Association of Indians in America(AIA)

A Non-Profit Organization of Indians founded in 1967

[www.aianational.org](http://www.aianational.org) . Tax-Exempt ID 23-7192936

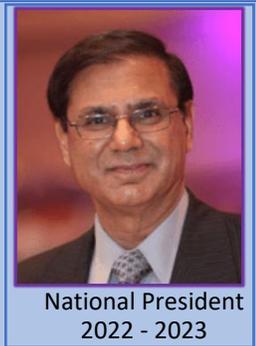
VOLUME I

1st EDITION

SEPT 20th 2022

### President's Brief Message

I thank each and every AIA member for electing me as the National President of our esteemed Non-profit organization "Association of Indians in America (AIA)" for the years 2022 & 2023 and entrusting me to lead this prestigious organization to greater heights.



National President  
2022 - 2023

The inauguration of the National President and the Executive committee took place virtually on Feb 6th 2022. Upon passing of the gavel and taking the reins of this 55 years old organization, the President laid down his vision and his team's agenda, which is now progressing well.

Among other things, Rejuvenating Life Membership by inducting younger members, Reviving and energizing the inactive chapters, Encouraging a forum for younger adults to arrange networking, philanthropic and social events to engage the younger generation, appointing a Bylaws committee to amend bylaws to strengthen the association and give younger generation a bigger role to play, Improving communications between the chapters, promoting unity and diversity, identifying the needs of the community and developing ways to address social issues.

Finally, as promised, we are proud to have restarted the **AIA National Newsletter ("BETWEEN US")** under the chairmanship of Mr. Pradeep Tandon, to enable communication between members, which AIA used to publish over 25 years ago. This is the 1st volume and 1st edition of the newsletter hot off the press.

I thank from the bottom of my heart to the whole National Executive Committee, Past Presidents, Trustees and the Members for all their help and support.



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA NEWSLETTER HISTORY

AIA's newsletter started in the early 1970's. It was called ("**The Journal**"). It ceased publication around 1978. It was revived in 1994 with Dr. Vinod Bansal in Chicago as editor and renamed ("**BETWEEN US**"). There was no further publication after 1996. We are resuming publication of AIA's Newsletter after more than 25 years (a quartercentury), keeping the same name ("**BETWEEN US**") which means communication between members.

## HISTORY OF AIA

The Association of Indians in America is the oldest National Association of Asian Indians in America. It was founded on August 20, 1967. AIA is the grassroot National Organization of Asian Immigrants in the United States, fostered on the democratic principles of "one member one vote", with chapters and membership spread across the United States of America. AIA represents the hopes and aspirations of those immigrants who are united by their common bond of "**Indian Heritage and American Commitment**".

## HIGHLIGHTS OF AIA ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Minority Status to Asian Indian Immigrants in 1970's
2. Separate Enumeration of Asian Indians for the first time in US censuses an independent category in 1980
3. Representation before Congressional committees to testify for family reunification provision in the immigration bill.
4. Relief work for Natural Disaster in India and across the World.
5. "Project India" an ongoing project of AIA, has channeled Medical Equipment and Funds for Projects and HIV relief work in India.
6. Sushruta and charka Award – Instituted in 1993 to recognize and honor people of Indian origin in the field of Medicine and Health care.
7. Deepavali celebration for public: New York City: at South Street Seaport an ongoing event, since 1987, enjoyed by close to More than 100,000 people in tri state residents.
8. Celebration of Diwali at the White house in 2003.
9. Recognition of Diwali by City Council in 2004 and suspension of alternate street parking in all the 5 borrows of NYC in 2005 onwards .
10. Official USPS Deepavali Stamp Unveiled In 2013 Resolution introduced in the House of Representatives advising USPS to issue a stamp commemorating Deepavali which lead to the final issuance of Deepavali stamp in OCT 20th 2016.
11. AIA celebrated Golden Anniversary on DEC 1st 2018.
12. Money raised and sent for construction of schools of India. Also sent Oxygen concentrators and Ventilators and PPE during Covid 19, donated \$ 26,000.00 to PM fund and Grocery kits to needy people.



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## INSIDE

### AIA National Activities

- Inauguration of the National President and the Executive committee on February 6th, 2022
- Conference on Awareness and Empathy Session 1 on Monday May 16th, 2022
- Conference on Awareness and Empathy Session 2 on Thursday June 16th, 2022

### PROJECT INDIA

- Sponsored NGO GAP selected to present at the Global HIV Conference in Montreal

### DESI NEXT

- 5Km Walk/ Run to support cancer care among South Asians.

### New York Chapter Activities

- Family Picnic organized on June 26th, 2022
- Annual Benefit Gala for Deepavali on Sept 18th, 2022

### UPCOMING

- NY Chapter Iconic event Mega Deepavali on Oct 2nd, 2022



## INSIDE

### Illinois Chapter Activities

- Inauguration ceremony of the newly elected Chapter President and the executive Committee on April 10th, 2022
- Youth Group Dance Competition on July 23rd, 2022
- Independence Day Celebration on August 12th, 2022  
**UPCOMING**
- Gandhi Jayanti Celebration with Business Networking Gala Dinner on Oct 16th, 2022

### New Jersey Chapter Activities

- Hosted reception for visiting Indian dignitary from Tamil Nadu on June 25th, 2022  
**UPCOMING**
- Gandhi Jayanti Celebration in Oct, 2022
- Business Networking Meet in December

### Madison Wisconsin Chapter Activities

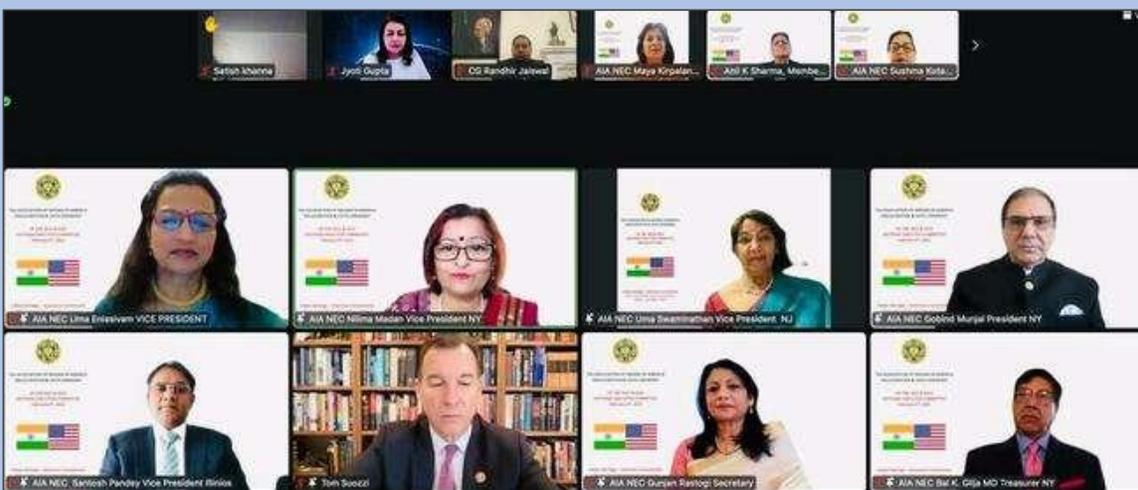
- Independence Day Celebration on August 13th, 2022  
**UPCOMING**
- Dandiya & Garba Nite Celebration on Oct 1st, 2022

### Florida Chapter Activities

- Independence Day Celebration on August 14th, 2022



## Pictures from Inauguration of the National President and the Executive committee on February 6, 2022





## THE ASSOCIATION OF INDIANS IN AMERICA INC.

### Gobind Munjal, NY

National President

### Vice Presidents

Nilima Madan, NY – Uma Swaminathan, NJ,  
Santosh Pandey, IL – Uma Eniasivam, FL

### Secretary

Gunjan Rastogi

### Treasurer

Bal Gilja, NY

### Members at Large

Anil Sharma IL  
Aridaman Jain NJ

Ashish Sen IL

Dr. Bharti Palkhiwala NJ

Dr. Binod K. Verma NY

Gobind Bhatija NY

Manoranjan Mishra IL

Maya Kirpalani FL

Neelam Modi NY

Om Dhingra IL

Pradeep Tandon NY

Prem Mehrotra IL

Rajeev Chaudhary NY

Ram Khanna NY

Santosh Khera NY

Sharmistha Dutta FL

Shashi Malik NY

Sujata Seth NY

Sushma Kotahwala NY

Usha Bansal NY

### Chapter Presidents

Harish Thakker NY

Hina Trivedi IL

Ram Trimula NJ

Archana Nimgaonkar SNJ

Alefeya Ghariali FL

Usha Kumar MD

Vijay Sharma WI

### Immediate Past President

Urmilesh Arya MD, NY

### Chairman Board of Trustees

Samin Sharma MD, NY

### Board of Trustees

Mani Menon MD

Vijay K. Kuchroo Ph.D

Neeraj Agrawal MBA

Dattatreya N. Nori MD

Kanti Rai MD

Asmita Bhatia

Shashi Shah MD

Surinder Rametra

Vijay Mattoo MD

Prem Bhandari

Suresh Gupta MD

Urmilesh Arya MD

### Past National Presidents

Urmilesh Arya MD, NY

Shashi Shah MD

Ghanshyam Pandey

Animesh Goenka

Buddhadev N. Manvar

Piyush Agarwal

Nirmal K. Mattoo

Narinder M. Kukar

H.v Janardhan

Jatinder P. Shah

Roshan L. Chadda

Surendra K. Saxena (Late)

Dattatreya G. Lanjewar (Late)

Manoranjan Dutta (Late)

Tapas Sen (Late)

### AIA Local Chapters

Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, New York, Maryland, Missouri,  
New Jersey, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia, and Wisconsin



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Elected National Executive Committee 2022 & 2023



Gobind Munjal  
President



Nilima Madan NY  
Vice President



Santosh Pandey IL  
Vice President



Uma Eniasivam FL  
Vice President



Uma Swaminathan NJ  
Vice President



Gunjan Rastogi  
Secretary



Dr. Bal K. Gilja  
Treasurer



Anil Sharma IL



Aridaman Jain NJ



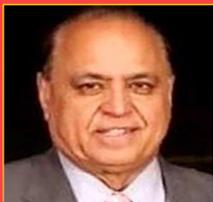
Ashish Sen IL



Dr. Bharti Palkhiwala NJ



Dr. Binod K. Verma NY



Gobind Bhatia NY



Manoranjan Mishra IL



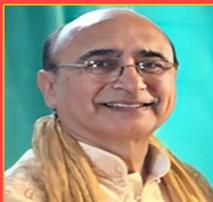
Maya Kirpalani FL



Neelam Modi NY



Om Dhingra IL



Pradeep Tandon NY



Prem Mehrotra IL



Rajeev Chaudhary NY



Ram Khanna NY



Santosh Khera NY



Sharmistha Dutta FL



Shashi Malik NY



Sujata Seth NY



Sushma Kotahwala NY



Usha Bansal NY



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Chair Persons of the Committees



Dr. Sunil Mehra  
Chairperson of  
Life Membership



Sushma Kotahwala  
Chairperson of  
Membership List



Surinder Rametra  
Co-Chairperson  
of Membership List



Dr. Dolly Manvar  
Chairperson of  
Medical Council



Atul Kukar  
Co-Chair of  
Membership



Anuj Goenka  
Co-Chair of  
Membership



Santosh Pandey  
Co-Chair of  
Membership



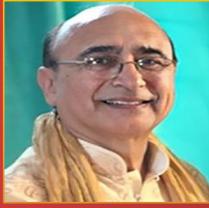
Vinisha Agnihotri  
Co-Chair of  
Membership



Santosh Pandey  
Chairperson of  
ByLaws Committee



Beena Kothari  
Chairperson of  
Brochure Committee



Pradeep Tandon  
Chairperson of  
Newsletter

## Chapter Presidents



Harish Thakkar  
President NY Chapter



Hina Trivedi  
President IL Chapter



Alfeya Ghadiali  
President FL Chapter



Ram Trimula  
President NJ Chapter



Archana Nimgaonkar  
President NSJ Chapter



Vijay Sharma  
President Wisconsin Chapter



## 75th Anniversary of India's Independence Day Celebration

### National AIA's Celebration of 75th Anniversary of India's Independence

The celebration of 75 th Anniversary of India's Independence was planned by National AIA at The Chelsea Pier Sixty in Manhattan to be held on November 5th, 2022, which had to be postponed due to some unforeseen circumstances about the conflict of date. The new date would be announced, as soon as it is decided. I, as National President, would however like to thank all my Executive committee for their hard work, especially Asmita Bhatia, Sushma Kotahwala, Nilima Madan, Gunjan Rastogi, Dr. Bal Gilja, Smiti and Ram Khanna, Rohit Vyas, Dr. Jagdish Gupta, Neelam Modi and each and every advisor and supporter for all the help and support provided to me for this function to be highly successful.

However, I am especially grateful and would like to personally thank:

Dr Nirmal Mattoo, Dr. Narinder Kukar, Dr. Buddh Dev Manvar, Dr. Ganesh Bhat and Mr. Naveen Shah of Navika Capital for taking the tables and entrusting me with the funds in advance for putting up the deposit for the event to be held at The Chelsea Pier Sixty on November 5th . My special thanks to all the other big supporters like Mr. Ravi Bhooplapur, Banquet Chairman of Golden Jubilee celebrations of AIA in 2018, Mr. Surinder Rametra and Dr Ravi Goyal. I am also grateful to Chairman Board of Trustees Dr Samin Sharma for providing us with all the help and support in raising substantial funds. My thanks also go to the other trustees, who promised to help us in the fundraising.



Dr. Samin K. Sharma  
Chairman Board of Trustees



Dr. Nirmal Mattoo  
Past National President



Dr. Narinder Kukar  
Past National President



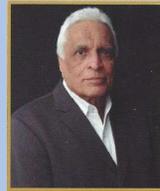
Dr. Buddh Dev Manvar  
Past National President



Dr. J. Ganesh Bhat  
Atlantic Dialysis



Ravishankar Bhoopalpur  
Banquet Chairman  
50th Anniversary Celebration



Surinder Rametra  
Trustee



Naveen Shah  
CEO Navika Capital



## List of New Life Members

Kevin & Iona Munjal

Atul & Lane Kukar

Shivaji Sengupta

Satnam Singh & Dalgit Parhar

Rizwan Qureshi

Eric and Totee Wadhwa Kumar

Nina Kukar & Yousef

Aditya & Priti Mattoo

Aprajita Mattoo

Narinder & Mani Kapoor

Vikek & Anna Kukar

Hina & Hemant Trivedi



## Veteran Community leader Gobind Munjal is inaugurated as President of The Association of Indians in America

### National Executive Committee takes oath of office at a virtual ceremony



**G 1:Gobind Munjal is administered the oath of office by Congressman Tom Suozzi**

LONG ISLAND, NY (TIP): Gobind Munjal, the newly elected National President of The Association of Indians in America (AIA), was sworn-in along with his National Executive Committee in an exciting Inauguration ceremony arranged virtually on Sunday February 6, 2022.

The occasion was graced by the chief guest Honorable Consul General Randhir Jaiswal, Hon.Congressman Tom Suozzi, and Hon.New York Senator Kevin Thomas.The Inauguration and Oath ceremony was attended by well over one hundred attendees and their families. This included AIA founding members, board of Trustees, AIA National Past Presidents, AIA current and past chapter Presidents, community leaders, AIA members, friends, and all the media partners.

Bharat Ratna legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar was given homage by observing a moment of silence. It was followed by melodious singing of American and Indian National Anthem by Gita Setia. The Chairman Board of Trustees, Dr Samin Sharma initiated the program and spoke briefly about AIA. Chief Guest Hon. Consul General of India in New York, Randhir Jaiswal, in his opening Remarks, praised AIA for all that it has done for the community during its 55 years of history and commended the organization for sending oxygen concentrators to India in 2021. He also pledged to work with AIA for outreach to the community.

National President Gobind Munjal was sworn-in by Honorable Congressman Tom Suozzi, who also administered the oath to Vice Presidents Uma Swaminathan(NJ), Nilima Madan(NY), Santosh Pandey (IL), Uma Eniasivam (FL), Secretary Gunjan Rastogi (NY) and Treasurer Dr. Bal Gilja (NY). Honorable NYS Senator Kevin Thomas had the honors for swearing-in the members at large from all the states, namely Anil Sharma (IL), Aridaman Jain (NJ), Ashish Sen (IL), Dr. Bharti Palkhiwala (NJ), Dr Binod K. Verma (NY), Gobind Bhatija (NY), Manoranjan Mishra (IL), Maya Kirpalani (FL), Neelam Modi (NY), OM Dhirgra (IL), Pradeep Tandon (NY), Prem Mehrotra (IL), Rajeev Chaudhary(NY), Ram Khanna (NY), Santosh Khera (NY), Sharmistha Dutta (FL), Shashi Malik (NY), Sujata Seth (NY), Sushma Kotahwala (NY), Usha Bansal (NY).



**AIA officers take oath of the office**



**Clockwise: Dr. Sameen Sharma, Satish Khanna, Dr. Jagdish Gupta, Nilima Madan, Asmita Bhatia, Mukesh Modi**

In his speech, National President Munjal welcomed everyone and shared a glimpse of his vision.

In pursuing the AIA's motto of "Indian Heritage and American Commitment", he emphasized that:

"We are here to serve the community needs. As we continue to direct our help to the people in India, our homeland, we should equally remain committed to the community right here in the United States, our adopted homeland. We hope to work towards increasing that commitment.

As the demographic profile of the Indian American Community has changed in past 5 decades since the founding of AIA, so are their needs. We remain committed to understanding the changing requirements of the community, and then will develop Programs to help both – the Youth and the Elderly. NEC pledges support to all the Chapter Presidents and its members, so they all can build and expand on these programs across the nation. This way together, we can make the next two years most productive."



**Clockwise: AIA National President Gobind Munjal, Dr. Urmillesh Arya, the outgoing President, Dr. Samin Sharma, Congressman Tom Suozzi**

A plaque was presented to the outgoing National President Dr. Urmillesh Arya for her splendid service and all the contributions to the organization and the community. All AIA leadership extended their good wishes and support. The program concluded with a traditional vote of thanks by the secretary. The program on Zoom was very well planned and executed and was appreciated by all. It was mentioned that as soon as the covid conditions improve, an in-person event will be planned in the near future.

The Association of Indians in America (AIA) is the oldest not-for-profit organization of Asian Indians in America founded on August 20, 1967. It is the grassroots national organization of Asian immigrants in United States. With chapters and membership spread across the United States of America, AIA represents the hopes and aspirations of those immigrants who are united by their common bond of Indian Heritage and American Commitment.



## COMMUNITY

# Association of Indians In America's new National Executive Committee sworn in

The Association of Indians in America held an inauguration ceremony of its newly-elected National Executive Committee for 2022-2023 on Sunday, Feb. 6, 2022.

Gobind Munjal, the new National President of AIA, was sworn-in along with the Committee members at a virtual ceremony Sunday February 6, 2022. The Association of Indians in America (AIA) is the oldest not-for-profit organization of Asian Indians in America. Founded on August 20, 1967, it is a grassroots national organization with chapters and membership spread across the United States of America, a press release from AIA said.

"AIA represents the hopes and aspirations of those immigrants who are united by their common bond of Indian Heritage and American Commitment," the organizers said. The chief guest was Consul General of India in New York Randhir Jaiswal. Other important guests included Congressman Tom Suozzi, R-NY; and New York State Senator Kevin Thomas.

The inauguration and oath ceremony was attended by well over one hundred attendees and their families, organizers said. This included AIA founding members, board of Trustees, AIA National Past Presidents, AIA current and past chapter Presidents, community leaders, AIA members, friends, and all the media partners.



**Presenting slide showing the members of the new National Executive Committee of the Association of Indians in America (AIA), during the virtual swearing-in ceremony held Feb. 6, 2022.**



**New President of Association of Indians in America, AIA, being sworn in by Rep. Tom Suozzi, R-NY, Feb. 6, 2022.**

India's Bharat Ratna legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar was given homage by observing a moment of silence. It was followed by singing of American and Indian national anthems by Gita Setia. The Chairman Board of Trustees, Dr Samin Sharma, initiated the program and spoke briefly about AIA.

Consul General Jaiswal, in his opening remarks, praised AIA for all that it has done for the community during its 55 years of history and commended the organization for sending oxygen concentrators to India in 2021. He also pledged to work with AIA for outreach to the community.

National President Gobind Munjal was sworn-in by Rep. Suozzi, who also administered the oath to Vice Presidents Uma Swaminathan (NJ), Nilima Madan (NY), Santosh Pandey (IL), Uma Eniasivam (FL), Secretary Gunjan Rastogi (NY) and Treasurer Dr. Bal Gilja (NY). Honorable NYS Senator Kevin Thomas had the honors for swearing-in the members at large from all the states, namely Anil Sharma (IL), Aridaman Jain (NJ), Ashish Sen (IL), Dr. Bharti Palkhiwala (NJ), Dr Binod K. Verma (NY), Gobind Bhatija (NY), Manoranjan Mishra (IL), Maya Kirpalani (FL), Neelam Modi (NY), OM Dhingra (IL), Pradeep Tandon (NY), Prem Mehrotra (IL), Rajeev Chaudhary (NY), Ram Khanna (NY), Santosh Khera (NY), Sharmistha Dutta (FL), Shashi Malik (NY), Sujata Seth (NY), Sushma Kotahwala (NY), and Usha Bansal (NY).

In his speech, President Munjal emphasized the AIA moto of "Indian Heritage and American Commitment" adding, "We are here to serve the community needs. As we continue to direct our help to the people in India, our homeland, we should equally remain committed to the community right here in the United States, our adopted homeland. We hope to work towards increasing that commitment."

Munjal went on to note that as the demographic profile of the Indian-American community has changed in past 5 decades since the founding of AIA, so have their needs, and that AIA remains committed to understanding the changing requirements of the community, and then will develop programs to help both the youth and the elderly.

The new executive committee, Munjal said, "Pledges support to all the Chapter Presidents and its members, so they all can build and expand on these programs across the nation. This way together, we can make the next two years most productive."

A plaque was presented to the outgoing National President Dr. Umresh Arya for her "splendid service" and all the contributions to the organization and the community.

All AIA leadership extended their good wishes and support to the new team. The program concluded with a traditional vote of thanks by the Secretary Gunjan Rastogi.



## The INDIAN PANORAMA

EVER TRUTHFUL

May 21, 2022

### AIA Organizes a conference on “What is Awareness and Empathy and How Can We Increase Them In Us”



**Gobind Munjal**  
National AIA President



**Professor Shivaji Sengupta**

On May 16th, “The Association of Indian In America”(AIA) National Executive Committee organized a conference on What is Awareness and Empathy and How Can We Increase Them In Us. The idea for this conference was conceived by Mr. Gobind P. Munjal, President of National AIA, Asmita Bhatia, Trustee of AIA and Professor Shivaji Sengupta of Boricua College. He has recently retired from there as Professor of English and its Academic VP. Boricua is a small, private, not for profit liberal arts institution in New York City. As vice president, he worked with the full-time faculty to develop awareness and empathy so that they may be better facilitators of learning. He was thus invited to lead the discussion. The meeting opened at 8:30 PM. There were over 42 attendees, all participating via Zoom. Ms. Gunjan Rastogi, the National AIA Secretary, introduced National AIA President Gobind Munjal. Mr. Munjal said in his introduction to Dr. Sengupta that we are living in a sharply divided world. There is the war in Ukraine which shows no signs of abating. Internally, sharp differences between the political parties and social groups were tearing the country apart with unrest and violence. These are all happening because of lack of communication between people. In this milieu, Gobind Munjal said, it would be a good idea to discuss awareness and empathy, how developing them may help others.

Shivaji Sengupta began the discussion by explaining what he means by awareness and empathy. Awareness is being conscious, not only of the environment around us, the atmosphere, the people, nature, but also conscious of how we are feeling as we are aware of them. It is the latter – how we are feeling – that is hard for us to be aware of, Sengupta said. Empathy is the ability to gauge the feeling of a person one is in the company of. This ability to “be in someone else’s shoes,” as they say, the ability to communicate with feeling and self-awareness, is empathy.

But awareness and empathy cannot happen without contact. Sengupta explained contact as not only being in touch with someone but being aware of the nature of the contact itself. Are we happy, sad, troubled, anxious about being in contact with a particular person? Contact, he said, is not instantaneous and sudden. It is a process. Awareness is its consequence. We need to nurture contact if we are to develop empathy.

Empathy, unlike sympathy, is active. When in empathy, we reach out to help. Sympathy is more intellectual, aloof; empathy is affective. Affect is our ability to monitor our feelings, be aware of them before we react. Empathy is functional; sympathy, inert.

Thus, Professor Sengupta established a continuum between Contact, Awareness and Empathy. He said there are other elements that we need to know to enhance awareness and empathy such as field and energy that the Bhagwat Gita calls shethra. There is also the notion of control and difference. All of this help someone to work with differences among people, to bring about mutual understanding and empathy and resolve conflicts. However, given the complex subject, he said he would explain these terms at a subsequent session.

The presentation lasted about 20 minutes. It was followed by lively discussions by most of the participants. Some of the questions were about Covid. Since Covid has affected so many millions of people in the world, for well over two years, and counting, could it have affected people’s awareness, since awareness depends on contact? It was an excellent question. Sengupta responded that theoretically, yes. But there needs to be thorough research to prove his hypothesis. Other questions were about explanations of terms. Participants asked for clarifications and examples.

It was decided at the end of the meeting to hold another session roughly in about a month. The audience were enthusiastic and receptive to the idea. The three moderators, Ms. Gunjan Rastogi, Mr. Santosh Pandey and Ms. Nilima Madan handled the conference with awareness and sensitivity. Secretary Gunjan Rastogi thanked all the former National AIA Presidents, Chapter Presidents, National Executive Committee and Chapters members, community leaders and invited guests for attending and participating in this conference and making it a huge success.



# AIA hosts Second Session on AWARENESS *and* EMPATHY

On Thursday June 16th, exactly a month after the first session, the Association of Indians in America (AIA) hosted its second conference on Awareness and Empathy at 8 PM. National President Gobind Munjal welcomed all the attendees including some of AIA's past presidents and trustees.

Mr. Munjal introduced the speaker Dr. Shivaji Sengupta and the moderator Asmita Bhatia, trustee of AIA.

As in the first session. Shivaji Sengupta led the discussion. Moderator Asmita Bhatia helped start the discussion by making the parameters of the present session clear. Although awareness and empathy can be successfully used in many situations, private, corporate and political, she said, our discussion was going to be limited to two areas: personal relationships between family and friends, and about relationships in the workplace.

At Mr. Gobind Munjal's suggestion, Sengupta began by restating the definitions of Awareness and Empathy. Awareness is our ability to be conscious of our environment, particularly, the people, but it also includes our being conscious of our own selves, especially in terms of our feelings. He explained Empathy as being able to intuitively understand how another person is feeling as he or she is engaging you over an issue important to both.

Next, Shivaji Sengupta said that Awareness and Empathy are both states of being: you are aware of someone or something: you are in a state of empathizing with another person. He explained that while everyone has awareness and empathy these two can be developed into skills. How? By constantly practicing the subskills that culminate into Awareness and Empathy. These skills are Observing, Listening, responding with involvement and feelings (Asmita Bhatia added these two conditions). Skillful observation makes you select the object of your choice with controlled attention and focus. It is possible to raise this to a skill level by constantly practice, selecting out a figure from the ground where the observation is taking place, controlling your power of attending and focusing sharply on the object. Similarly, responding has subskills also which, with practice, turns into a skill.



These subskills are acquiescence in responding and satisfaction in response. If we are interested in and involved with the object of our attention, we transit from acquiescence to satisfaction in response.

Dr. Sengupta's ideas led to a lively discussion among the members. They took up one another's points and elaborated on them. Gunjan Rastogi asked what does one do when one of the parties in discussion turns hostile and offensive? Withdrawing temporarily, was the answer, keeping open all the channels of communication and letting the hostile person be aware that the channels are open. What is the difference between hearing and listening? Asked Nilima Madan. Hearing is general, while listening is more specific. Listening is targeted hearing. Dr. Bharti Palkhiwala spoke of the importance of eye contact, and periodic responses that told the speaker that the listener was genuinely interested in him/her. She called it building an alliance with the listener.

Asmita Bhatia spoke of the importance of calmness as one is taking to a hostile person. Sengupta elaborated that this calm withdrawal is not a final withdrawal.

The engagers need to remember their purpose of the discussion and whether differences in values in (male/female; parent/child, supervisor/supervisee) are preemortory (unnegotiable) or ameliorative (can be discussed further at least in terms of methods of achieving a goal).

Mr. Gursharan Kalra pointed out whether with a change in one's status (in life or in society) one can be in a difficult position in terms of others' expectation. Sengupta replied yes, and in such cases, it is best to be authentic, accept that one's status in life has changed, but plead to be accepted as one is now. Uma Swaminathan asked whether there is a difference between the way a male observes and responds from the way a female does the same things. Curiously, interesting as this question was the question wasn't discussed in much detail, which it deserved. Shivaji Sengupta is still thinking about this question and would like to get back to Ms. Swaminathan on this.

To bring out some of these issues, Shivaji Sengupta gave a summarized situation of a father and daughter who were engaged in a controversial situation, putting the parent and offspring on culturally: opposite sides. Sengupta described how the father engaged his daughter into roleplaying by taking the opposite viewpoint and arguing in favor of it. The daughter became the father the father became the daughter. In doing so, Sengupta, said they had an almost first-hand feeling about what it is like to be in the other position. Empathy developed in each, the daughter, and the father. In the end, the parents asked the daughter to decide, now that she had considered both the father's and the daughter's points of view. The parents assured the daughter that whatever she decided, the parent would accept. Finally, the outcome was favorable. Many participants appreciated the narrative as a prime example of developing empathy. The members all agreed that this second session on Awareness and Empathy was full of lively, intelligent and intellectual discussion and was a huge success. There was even talk of continuing this trend and most of the attendees requested the management to have a third session for more discussions of this type both via Zoom and in person, as these issues are real and need more insight into this. Mr. Munjal responded that they will send the recording to everybody who were not able to attend the session due to prior commitments and would very actively think about it, if most of those people also would want it. The program was concluded at 9:30 PM by vote of thanks from the National Secretary Gunjan Rastogi.



## AIA-NY / Project India's Sponsored NGO from India Selected to Present at the Global HIV Conference in Montreal!

Project India of The Association of Indians in America, New York Chapter  
Tax Id: 23-7192936 web address: [theaiany.org](http://theaiany.org)  
Chairpersons: Asmita Bhatia – Divya Shah

The Association of Indians in America (AIA) sponsored NGO-Gujarat AIDS and Prevention Unit (GAP) is selected to present a Workshop at the 24<sup>th</sup> International AIDS conference to be held in Montreal, Canada from July 27, 2022 till August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The Conference is co-hosted by WHO, UNAIDS UNICEF and expects over 10,000 participants from 130 countries. GAP founded in 1989 is based in Ahmedabad and has been supported by AIA since 2005.

This is an extraordinary achievement for GAP Organization, as its workshop application was selected from a total of 1650 submissions from different institutes, universities and NGOs from around the world. GAP is recognized as the lead non-governmental organization for its vision, dedication and its scientific methods that have truly changed lives of thousands of adolescents. **The workshop titled "The Rising Buds" will be presented on July 31 2022 at the Conference in Montreal.**



Joint programs of GAP and AIA, emphasize **"Comprehensive Family Wellness Care"**, through awareness, prevention and counseling, across **80 adopted villages** along the border of Gujarat and Rajasthan. GAP conducts several need based programs, such as **BAL MUKUL and BAL GOPAL** Programs, **MAMTA** for Health Check Up for women (over 20,000 women have been helped), **ASHA** – for vocational training, **ANGANWADI**, for young mothers, and other programs with a focus on women and adolescents.

We wish success to GAP's representatives: Mr. Jogendra Upadhyay, Mr. Pankaj Patel, and Mr. Harshad Jani at the Conference



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## RUNNING AGAINST CANCER

5K WALK/RUN TO SUPPORT CANCER CARE AMONG SOUTH ASIANS

SEPTEMBER 18, 2022

9AM-1PM

Eisenhower Park,  
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Field 6

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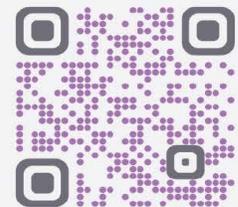
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Azadi Ka 16  
Amrit Mahotsav



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Pictures from 5Km Walk/ Run to support cancer care among South Asians by Desi Next





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## New York Chapter Activities

Family Picnic organized on June 26, 2022



### AIA NEW YORK PRESENTS

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**JUNE 26TH 2022, SUNDAY • 11 AM - 6 PM**

**PACK A PICNIC AND SOMETHING TO SHARE!**

Text RSVP By June 21, 2022 on 347-804-7119, 516-244-4350 & 917-207-8491

If any questions, please email on AnitaThakkarNY@yahoo.com

"By Invitation Only"



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Pictures from AIA NY Family Picnic





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## New York Chapter Activities

**Annual Benefit Gala Event Sunday, Sept. 18, 2022**

**THE ASSOCIATION OF INDIANS IN AMERICA, INC**  
**(AIA, NEW YORK CHAPTER)**  
*Cordially invites you to its*  
**ANNUAL BENEFIT GALA**  
**ADMISSION: \$150 PER PERSON**

**PROGRAM**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18th, 2022  
 At The Muttontown Club  
 5933 Northern Blvd, East Norwich, NY 11732

<b>5.30PM TO 7PM</b>	<b>7PM TO 8PM</b>	<b>8PM TO 10PM</b>
COCKTAIL HOUR	WELCOME & PERFORMANCE	RECOGNITION & DEEPAVALI PRESENTATION FOLLOWED BY DINNER

**AIA NEW YORK HONOREES OF THE 2022**

Mr. Prem Bhandari	Dr. Prakash Krishnan	Dr. Pratichi K. Goenka	Dr. Buddhadev Manvar	Dr. Jatin Shah

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 President Harish Thakkar 917.301.9333



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Pictures from AIA NY Annual Benefit Gala Event





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## New York Chapter Upcoming Events

### Deepavali Celebrations SUNDAY, Oct. 2nd, 2022



The Association of Indians in America, Inc  
Proudly Celebrates (NY Chapter)

LIVE FIREWORKS  
AT 7PM  
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Swati Vaishnav  
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vaishnavswati@gmail.com

# 35<sup>TH</sup> DEEPAVALI



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## Sunday October 2nd, 2022

South Street Seaport, NY  
200 Water Street, New York NY 10038  
12:30 PM to 7 PM  
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## Illinois Chapter Activities

**Daily Herald**  
Suburban Chicago's Information Source

### Association of Indians in America (AIA), Illinois Chapter elects new Chapter Executive Committee

April 13 2022



The members of the Illinois Chapter of the Association of Indians in America in a recently held election elected the Executive Committee of the chapter for the year 2022-2023 consisting of the following members: President - Hina Trivedi; Vice President - Lucy Pandey & Shaheen Sayeed; Treasurer: Sujata Sharma; Secretary: Nilabh Dubey; Joint Secretary: Shabana Rahman; Members at Large: Ram Bhaskaran, Chandani Duvvuri, Praveen Konduru, Akshay Patel, Malla Reddy, Pandey Sahai, and Nipa Shah.

The inaugural function of the chapter was held in Shikara Restaurant in Downers Grove, Illinois on March 20, 2022. The Chair of the Election Committee, Dr. Ghanshyam Pandey introduced the newly elected members of the Executive Committee, as a new committee is elected every other year. He congratulated the members for their commitment to AIA and work for the progress of the association and the chapter.

The Association of Indians in America is the oldest Indian organization in the United States. It was established in 1967 with the anticipation that as a change of the immigration law, there will be greater immigration of Indian people to the United States. One of the objectives was to help and facilitate the participation and the assimilation of the incoming Indian immigrants to the United States society in the country of their choice. Ever since, the Association has worked on several important issues, such as granting of minority status for the Indians in the United States, counting of Asian Indians as a separate entity, starting in 1980 US Census, participation in the reform of immigration laws. The Association has several chapters across the United States with individual membership to the Association, and the chapters are involved not only in community activities but also in social, educational and cultural activities of the diaspora. In keeping with these objectives, the Illinois Chapter has been organizing many community and cultural and educational programs in Illinois.

The incoming president, Miss Hina Trivedi then took over the proceedings of the chapter and discussed the programs and activities of the Illinois Chapter for the coming year. She said that AIA has been conducting at least three major programs every year which include Youth Talent Show, a youth dance competition program, the Independence Day Celebration at the Daley Plaza, and the Gandhi Jayanti Celebration sometimes with the Annual Banquet. She said that the chapter team will continue with these activities, as these are the signature programs of the AIA, Illinois Chapter. Members of the committee then discussed details of each program and it was decided that the Youth Dance Competition Program, Youth Festival will be held sometimes in July of this year. The Independence Day will be celebrated on August 12, 2022, at the Daley Plaza in Chicago and some dignitaries, including the Consul General of India will be invited. In addition, the Independence Day program, as in the previous years, will also include a cultural program depicting the culture and heritage of India, exposing our heritage to the American people.

Gandhi Jayanti is one of the most important programs of the AIA, Illinois chapter, which started in 1985 and the AIA, Illinois Chapter has been conducting this Gandhi program ever since, and many high-level dignitaries have participated in Gandhi Jayanti program as speakers and as guest, including Mrs. Ila Gandhi, the granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi. Mr. Kamla, the Director of Gandhi Foundation in Washington among other distinguished speakers. The Illinois Chapter celebrated the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti a couple of years back in which the then Consul General of India, Mr. Dalala, as the Chief Guest.

Miss Hina Trivedi then also said that in addition to the three signature programs of the chapter this year, the chapter will also conduct a business seminar and festival. Some of the members of the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees volunteered to help in organizing this business program.

For any additional information about the chapter and the association, please contact Miss Hina Trivedi (Tel: 630-951-0012), President, AIA, Illinois Chapter, or Ghanshyam Pandey (Tel: 630-789-0569), Chair, Board of Trustees, AIA, Illinois Chapter.



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Illinois Chapter Activities

### Youth Group Dance Competition

**ASSOCIATION OF INDIANS IN AMERICA**

**AIA** 501 (C)(3) NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION

ILLINOIS CHAPTER PRESENTS

**YOUTH GROUP DANCE COMPETITION**

ON  
23 July 2022  
5-9 pm at  
Harper College  
1200 W Algonquin  
Road, Palatine, IL  
60067

**CONTACT**  
Hina Trivedi  
(President)  
email : [aiapresident22@gmail.com](mailto:aiapresident22@gmail.com)  
630-951-0012

Ghanshyam Pandey  
(Chair Board of Trustees)  
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## Illinois Chapter Activities

### Pictures from AIA IL Youth Group Dance Competition





## Illinois Chapter Activities



News Article 07/30/2022

### ***Youth Group Dance Competition Successfully Organized By AIA IL Chapter***

CHICAGO, IL- The Association of Indians in America IL Chapter, popularly known as AIA, held a young group dance competition on July 23, 2022, at Harper College performing arts auditorium. Along with 600+ guests, prominent dignitaries such as Raja Krishnamoorthi and Jessie White, Cook County Treasurer, expressed her greetings and rewarded the candidates with certificates of excellence for commitment and dedication to the Indian – American community.

AIA is a non-profit organization that was established in 1967.

Some of the AIA's goals have included promoting, preserving, and expanding our Indian cultural legacy while remaining a part of the American mainstream, particularly among our younger generation. Our Annual Youth Dance Competition Event is part of our youth program and is held annually.

Every year, it is the most anticipated celebration by Illinois youngsters. It was conducted two years later due to COVID.

The festival began with a bang and ended with an overflowing crowd. This year's event was organized by our newly elected president, Hina Trivedi, Chairman Dr. Ghanshyam Pandey, and National Vice President Santosh Pandey. The celebration began with the American and Indian National Anthem, followed by lamp lighting by executive AIA members. The evening kicked off with Ganesh Vandana. President Hina Trivedi recognized Prem Mehrotra of GE Energy and Salil Mishra of Millennium Bank for their dedication towards AIA IL Chapter. Dr. Pandey emphasized the need of creating togetherness and unity in our youth groups. He thanked the audience for being a part of this great day.

The cultural part was handled by Chair and Co-Chair Nilabh Dubey and Shabana Rahman along with their youth team. Various dance groups delivered 18 excellent and outstanding dance performances.

Each performance conveyed a message and awed the audience.

The Tumbling Team finished in third place, Utkalaa finished in second place, while The Dynamited took first place. President Hina Trivedi commended all AIA Illinois Chapter members and incoming committee members on their impending tasks. She expressed her heartfelt gratitude to all of the sponsors, donors, dancing groups, participants, parents, and attendees.

Hina Trivedi is a supporter of women's empowerment and youth, so the team was mostly made up of women and young people at the event.

President Hina Trivedi and her entire team of dedicated members were congratulated by National President Gobind Munjal for their hard work in making this event a success.



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Illinois Chapter Activities

India's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Independence Day Celebration August 12, 2022



**ASSOCIATION OF INDIANS IN AMERICA**  
(Non-Profit Organisation founded in 1967)

**AIA** 501 (C)(3) NON PROFIT ORGANISATION

**ILLINOIS CHAPTER**

*Invites you to India's*  
**Independence Day Celebration**




On  
Friday August 12, 2022  
11:45 AM to 1 PM  
at  
Daley Plaza  
50 W Washington St.  
Chicago IL 60602

Invited Guest Speakers:  
H.E. Amit Kumar, Consul General of India  
Jesse White, Secretary of State  
Raja Krishnamoorthi, Congressman  
Maria Pappas, Cook County Treasurer

**COMMITTEE**

Hina Trivedi (President) 630-951-0012	Ghanshyam Pandey (Chair Board of Trustees) 630-789-0569
Santosh Pandey	
Shabana Rahman Ram Bhaskaran Praveen Konduru Akshay Patel Anil Sharma Shishir Sahay Manoranjan Mishra	Nilabh Dubey Salil Mishra Prem Mehrotra Lucy Pandey Shaheen Sayeed Ashish Sen Om Dhingra



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## Pictures from AIA IL Independence Day Celebration





## INDIALIFE

News Article | Tue, 16 Aug 2022

### Association of Indians in America, Illinois Chapter celebrate India's 75th anniversary of India's independence



The event started in the heart of Chicago downtown at Daley Plaza by first hosting the Indian tricolor flag by the dignitaries from AIA. Flag hoisting was done with all pomp and glory to the rhythm of Indian National Anthem by Dr. Ghanshyam Pandey (Chairman Board of Trustees), Hina Trivedi (President of AIA Illinois Chapter), Santosh Pandey (VP of National Executive Board of AIA) and Nilabh Dubey (General Secretary AIA Illinois).

After the flag hoisting, prayers to the Lord and blessings were invoked by a performance in traditional Indian dance art form called Kathak by Nishika Dubey. The program was inaugurated by Nilabh Dubey and Santosh Pandey took over the stage as Master of Ceremony. He invited Hina Trivedi to the stage, where Hina spoke about the importance of India's Independence Day, as this is the 75th year (popular as Azaadi ka Amrit Mahotstav). Hina further conveyed the message of Prime Minister of India on the importance of flag hoisting this year, aptly titled 'Har Ghar Tirangaa'. The cultural program had 3 dances from various popular local artists.

The first was solo performance in traditional kathak style with was choregraphed and performed by Meera Bapat in semi classical style. This was followed by Utkaala Dance Academy's performance by 2 little champions Saanvi Dhala and Nishka Dash in Oddissi style to the song Vande Mataram. The last performance was by Divine Nritya, the dance sequence was composed and choregraphed by Nidhi Trivedi Mishra. The theme of this song was based on 'Krishna Tarana' and performed by Nishka Mishra, Krishna Mishra, Etash Mishra and Nidhi Trivedi Mishra.

Hina Trivedi then invited the Chief Guest of the event, Maria Pappas, Cook County Treasurer. Maria Pappas was thrilled to be part of the celebrations and spoke about the various contributions of Indian diaspora in the city of Chicago. Maria Pappas was then honored in the traditional Indian style of putting a hand-woven shawl over her shoulders. Maria Pappas spoke about the how much she felt as a part of Indian community and how much she enjoyed the dances and the cultural show. She emphasized the strength of the Indian US partnership and praised the Indian Americans for being the crucial pillar in growth of Chicago and Illinois state Dr Ghanshyam Pandey briefly spoke about the freedom struggle and how India got its Independence. He also spoke about AIA, which is the first Indian Organization established in USA in 1967 and the various objectives and activities of AIA. Dr. Colleen Sen took over the stage and eloquently spoke about India at 75 and what has India achieved as young country but as the world's oldest civilization. As main sponsors of the event, Salil Mishra and Prem Mehrotra were invited to the stage to share a few words about their idea of India at 75.

The event was concluded by Vote of Thanks by Nilabh Dubey., where he thanked Hina Trivedi for spending many days with various agencies of Chicago City to ensure everything happens in safe manner and organizing this event single handedly. Nilabh also thanked the large crowd that had gathered to watch the celebrations. He thanked the Chief Guest, Maria Pappas for being a friend of India and thanked Dr Pandey for providing the leadership and vision to AIA. He also thanked the executive board members of AIA who were present to cheer us all at the event.

The program as concluded by Hina Trivedi inviting everyone for the delicious Indian snacks and the crowd then clapped and waved India flag as some danced to the Indian patriotic song medley.



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Illinois Chapter Upcoming Events

### Gandhi Jayanti Celebration with Bussiness Networking Gala Dinner



SINCE 1967

**ASSOCIATION OF INDIANS IN AMERICA**

501 (C)(3)  
NON PROFIT ORGAIZATION

**ILLINOIS CHAPTER**



**INVITATION**

**October 16th  
2022 Sunday  
5pm onwards**

**Celebrating  
Gandhi Jayanti  
with Business Networking Gala Dinner**

at  
Ashyana Banquets  
1620 75th St, Downers Grove, IL

Hina Trivedi  
(President)

Ghanshyam Pandey  
(Chair Board of Trustees)

Santosh Pandey . Salil Mishra . Prem Mehrotra . Om Dhingra  
Shabana Rahman . Nilabh Dubey . Manoranjan Mishra . Lucy Pandey  
Saheen Sayeed . Ashish Sen . Anil K Sharma . Sujata Sharma . Akshay Patel



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## New Jersey Chapter Activities

NEWS INDIA TIMES | JUNE 25, 2022

### AIA and Tamil association host reception for visiting Indian dignitary



**Uma Swaminathan, Vijaya Thayanban, Upendra Chivukula and Calai Chandrasekaran pose for a photo at an event jointly hosted by America Tamil Sangam and Association of Indians in America June 25, 2022, at A2B Restaurant in South Plainfield, N.J., to felicitate visiting dignitary Vijaya Thayanban. Photo: ATS and AIA**

America Tamil Sangam and Association of Indians in America (AIA) New Jersey chapter jointly hosted a reception for Tamil Nadu Government official Vijaya Thayanban, member-secretary of Tamil Nadu Iyal Isai Nataka Mandram, who is on an official visit to the U.S., at A2B Restaurant, Hadley Road in South Plainfield, NJ on Saturday, June 25, 2022. The event also celebrated the birth anniversary of the late Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Muthuvel Karunanidhi.

Thayanban is a senior leader of the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) party in Tamil Nadu and also coordinator of party's women's wing. She was recently appointed to the post of Member Secretary to foster music, art and culture in the state by Chief Minister M. K. Stalin.

Upendra Chivukula, former deputy speaker of New Jersey State Assembly and currently Commissioner on the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, who presided over the event, praised the role of Thayanban in serving as a link between overseas Tamils and the Tamil Nadu government in promoting Tamil culture, music, literature and art, a press release said.

Chivukula also conferred the title "Tamil Ma Mani" on the visiting dignitary, on behalf of both the associations for her lifelong contribution to the promotion of Tamil music, dance, culture, literature and art forms.

In her acceptance speech, Thayanban said the DMK Government led by Chief Minister M. K. Stalin is pro active and investor-friendly. She appealed to Tamil entrepreneurs in the U.S. to invest in Tamil Nadu and reap the benefits offered by the state government, the press release quoted her saying.

She said she will support U.S.-born and raised Tamil children proficient in Bharathanatyam and music in Tamil Nadu. She said she was happy to celebrate the 99th birth anniversary of late Chief Minister Karunanidhi with nonresident Tamils.

"Mr. Stalin considers overseas Tamils as an asset to the state and would consider any suggestions for better living or resolve any grievances, if any, of Non Resident Tamils," she said.

Ram Tirumala, NJ chapter president of Association of Indians in America (AIA) recollected the active role played by Thayanban in improving the condition of women in Tamil Nadu. Dr Frankie Hutton, author of several Black history books and a professor, spoke on the occasion.

Calai Chandrasekaran, president of America Tamil Sangam, in her welcome address said this was her first meeting held under her leadership after assuming charge as president of the ATS. She congratulated Thayanban for her role in promoting traditional art forms.

Uma Swaminathan, national vice president of AIA said her organization was proud to co-host the event for a person who worked for women's emancipation in Tamil Nadu.

Balamurugan, managing director of A2B Restaurant, a branch of Adyar Ananda Bhavan in the U.S., John Joseph, president of Tamil Nadu chapter of Overseas Indian Congress, Gajendran Ganesan, former secretary of America Tamil Sangam and Dr Kalyani Duraiswamy, a pharmaceutical scientist were among those who attended the event.



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Madison Wisconsin Chapter Activities

**India's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Independence Day Celebration August 13, 2022**

### ASSOCIATION OF INDIANS IN AMERICA (AIA) – MADISON, WI

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*India Day 2022*

- *Flag ceremony*
  - *Parade March*
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- ❖ *Authentic Indian food*
  - ❖ *Face paintings Heena arts and tattoos*
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**DATE : AUGUST 13, 2022**

**VENUE : 100 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR BLVD ,  
MADISON, WI 53703**

**TIME : 10 A.M TO 1 P.M.**

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Stage performance : Jansi Prabhakaran (jansi\_praba@yahoo.com)

Website : <http://www.aiamadison.com>

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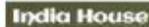
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# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Pictures from AIA Wisconsin Independence Day Celebration





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Madison Wisconsin Chapter Upcoming Events

### Dandiya & Garba Nite Celebration

**AIA Madison Presents**

# Dandiya & Garba Nite

**Saturday, October 1st, 2022**  
**6PM-10PM**  
**Oregon High School**  
**Oregon, WI**

**FEATURING ARTISTS FROM CHICAGO**




**Tickets**  
**Adults: \$10**  
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**SWAGAT**

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- **Vijay (239-3869), Jansi (628-3506), Raje (609-7098), Usha (804-514-1524)**

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# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Florida Chapter Activities

India's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Independence Day Celebration August 14, 2022



THE ASSOCIATION OF  
INDIANS IN AMERICA

INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE



# India's Independence Day

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14TH, 2022 | 11:30-4PM

Come experience Indian food, clothing, jewelry  
and a cultural show. Also enjoy henna designs  
and a kids zone!

## Cultural Show @ IPM

Patriotic performances from different regions of India

# FREE ADMISSION

GARAGE PARKING \$12 VALET PARKING \$25

MASTER OF CEREMONY



**SAIRA ANWER**  
LOCAL 10 NEWS TEAM

## BROWARD CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

201 SW 5TH AVE, FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33312

### CONTACT US

#INDIADAYSFL



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Funding for this project is provided in part by the Broward County  
Board of County Commissioners as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council.





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## Pictures from AIA FL Independence Day Celebration





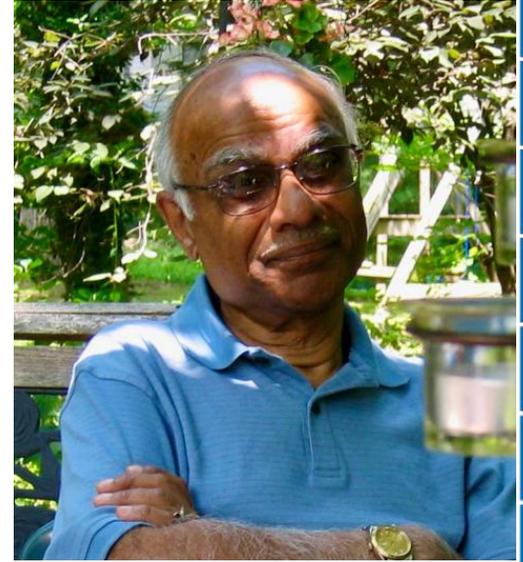
## Celebration of life event of Tapas Sen founding Member of AIA and Past National President

### Fun Facts about Tapas

Major Interests: Meditation, philosophy, travel, photography, gourmet wining/dining, cooking, writing, public speaking, watching the Rangers, taking walks

Only 1 of 5 children to emigrate from India; was aptly named Tapas which means "meditation"

- Spoke English, Bengali, and Hindi, some Gujarati and studied Sanskrit.
- Italy was his favorite country to visit; Studied Italian
- Hosted and cooked for Ravi Shankar at JH University. (Baltimore did not have Indian restaurants in the 60's!)
- Started an Oenological Club at Bell Telephone Labs
- Joined Toastmaster's International and gave a speech that took him to the semi-finals national level in 1960s
- On a 1967 visit to Montserrat, he and Sondra cooked for the Prime Minister, who subsequently requested Tapas to open a mango chutney factory there.
- Started the first Indian restaurant, Town-East, in Red Bank, NJ in 1973. Ahead of its time!
- Officiated at three weddings
- Was a Million Miler on Delta Airlines
- Visited 42 countries and 50 states (last state Alaska arranged by Jaiden to celebrate his Bar Mitzvah)
- Participated with Sondra in Mtn. Lakes-UN Weekends, hosting VIP guests including UN Ambassadors from India, China, Vietnam and Monaco.
- Met 5 U.S. presidents, including a visit with Sondra to the White House to meet President and Mrs. Carter
- Served as co-chair on the Excelsior Quality Award Taskforce for Governor Mario Cuomo
- After speaking in Bratislava was invited to have tea with President Vladimir Meciar of Slovakia.
- Consultant to the Univ of Michigan Business School. Accompanied 9 different groups of MBA students doing business research projects in Mexico, Hong Kong, China and the Czech Republic
- Attended the 1994 World Chess Grand Prix in Moscow, held at the Kremlin. Watched grand masters Vishy Anand and Gary Kasparov play. Ate in President Boris Yeltsin's private dining room.



## *Celebrating Tapas*

August 25, 1933 – April 22, 2022



## Tapas Sen, PhD

Tapas's life in the US is an American immigrant success story. In 1959, Tapas arrived with two small suitcases carried through Europe, then by boat from England to Baltimore to join Johns Hopkins University as a graduate student. Tapas came with an undergraduate degree in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics, a master's degree in Psychology and Psychometrics from Calcutta University, and as a research scholar at the prestigious Indian Statistical Institute. Four years later, with his PhD in Psychology and minors in Industrial Engineering and Biostatistics, Tapas had also acquired expertise in Indian cooking, knowledge of wine, and an American girlfriend Sondra, whom he married in 1966.

Tapas worked his entire career at one company, the Bell System; first at Bell Labs, as a Member of Technical Staff and on its faculty on Continuing Education; then joining AT&T for 25 years in corporate, human resources, labor, quality, and organization change strategies. He retired in 1996 as Director of Workplace of the Future, an AT&T-wide strategy to introduce organizational change and develop labor-management collaboration to meet global competition. Tapas's former Executive VP of HR at AT&T, Hal Burlingame said, "The media covers the workplace today and points to programs like inclusion, quality of work, and work life. To Tapas these were not programs, but a way of life that he lived. He always valued people for who they were, not their positions; listened with care and put others first. Books are written about this form of Servant Leadership which Tapas displayed every day."

After retirement, Tapas started a small management consulting company, Transformation Strategies International. He also joined the Heldrich Center at Rutgers University as its first Executive Director of Workforce Development Council. He became an entrepreneur with son-in-law, Dr. Jay Berger, as co-

founders and co-presidents of TSImed LLC, a medical transcription company well recognized by major medical institutions in the Northeast (2002-2022). Tapas was also active in public and community service programs: He served with distinction as a governor-appointed member of the NJ State Education and Training Council (SETC) for 32 years, working under seven different NJ governors. The Council's mission was to develop workplace strategies to ensure NJ businesses get needed skills demanded by global business. Tapas was a founder in 1967 and co-chairman of the Association of Indians in America, (AIA) the first national organization of the Indian ethnic community in the US with its dual purpose: Indian heritage and American commitment. He was still active as a senior advisor of AIA and has been lauded by its members for his vision and leadership. Family meant everything to Tapas: Sondra (his wife of 56 years), their daughter Monisha, and husband Jay, and two grandchildren, Jasmine and Jaiden (whom he loved to travel with), his son, Raj and wife Sheri, and two grandsons, Siddarth (Sidd) and Rohan (Rocko), his sister Purnima Gupta in Calcutta (with whom he used to speak to every day on What's App), friends and colleagues in the U.S., India, and around the world mourn his loss. The network was wide--once you met Tapas, you didn't forget him. Tapas and Sondra's home in Mountain Lakes was open to all; for 44 years, Tapas dispensed wise advice over his world famous Tea and Sandesh. He was a model for a gentler, kinder way of being in the world. Tapas will be remembered, as he wished, not by his achievements and accolades, which were considerable, but by the number of lives he touched with his quiet brilliance, steady, caring presence, love, gratitude, and wisdom.



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## AIA Membership Application Form



### The Association of Indians in America

(AIA is a Non-Profit Organization of Asian Indians founded in 1967)  
TAX ID: 23-7192936

#### Indian Heritage American Commitment

**Our objectives:** The objectives of the Association of Indians in America are to promote the welfare of Asian Indians in the United States and to promote the image of Indians by showcasing its rich heritage, culture, and traditions through cultural, charitable, and educational events.

Please submit the following information along with your membership check to the address listed below.

#### Membership Application

Yes, I would like to become a member of AIA

Life Membership (Single OR Couple) **\$300**

Paid by Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ **For Life Membership**

Name(s) Mr: \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs/Ms: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Other Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Company or Corporate Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your tax-deductible check payable to

**The Association of Indians in America**  
**Mailing Address: 1334 139 St, Whitestone, NY 11357-2336**

**Contact:** National President Gobind Munjal (646) 209 8244, Life Membership Chairman Dr Sunil Mehra (516) 503-1467,  
National Treasurer Dr Bal Gilja (516) 698 9272

**E-mail:** [gpmunjal@gmail.com](mailto:gpmunjal@gmail.com) , [sunnymd@gmail.com](mailto:sunnymd@gmail.com) OR [giljab@gmail.com](mailto:giljab@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.aianational.org](http://www.aianational.org)



## *Thank You*

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