



# 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 III**

**3<sup>rd</sup> EDITION**

**JAN. 31 2025**

### **National President's Brief Message**

I thank each and every AIA member for once again electing me as the National President of our esteemed non-profit organization “Association of Indians in America (AIA)” for the second 2-Year Term 2024 & 2025 and entrusting me to lead this prestigious organization to even greater heights.

Further thanks to the whole executive team for supporting me in achieving our vision, team's agenda for the term 2024 & 2025 and much more under process as listed below:



**National President  
2024 - 2025**

- ❖ **Opening more AIA Chapters like; California, Minnesota, Georgia and Texas** in addition to **Reviving and energizing the inactive chapters further** and expansion of their current activities.
- ❖ **Rejuvenated Life Membership Further** – specially with younger members.
- ❖ **Encouraging younger members to take leadership roles** – Made more younger members and gave the younger members leading roles in our upcoming AIA prestigious Medical Council Awards Gala to be held on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 at beautiful venue CIPRIANI 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, Manhattan, New York.
- ❖ **Restarted prestigious Medical Council Awards Gala after a gap of 15 years** to honor the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation of physicians and surgeons.
- ❖ **Updated the AIA Life Membership List** – As there was a lot of confusion on the membership list during the last AIA National elections, a lot of work has now been done to update and finalize the Life Membership List. Thanks to Ms. Sushma Kotahwala, the current Membership List Chair and Mr. Surinder Rametra for working so hard on the Life Membership list for the last decade or so.
- ❖ **AIA National Newsletter (“BETWEEN US”)** - Proud to have restarted **AIA National Newsletter after a gap of over 20 years and continued to build on it** to enable communication between members.
- ❖ **First Ever Diwali celebrations in the Minnesota State Capitol** - Introduced in 2023 first ever Diwali celebrations in the Minnesota State Capitol under chairmanship of Mr Gopal Khanna assisted by Vallabha Tantry, which tradition is being continued in 2024 & beyond.
- ❖ **Investment of Life Membership Funds For Income & long-term Growth and distributions of its income to all the chapters** - Pursuant to the **Investment Advisory Committee recommendations** headed by Mr. Rohit Vyas to invest life membership funds for income and long-term growth starting late 2023. **Glad to report 30% growth in the long-term investment during 2024. Also for the first time in over two decades, income from the life membership funds is being distributed to the chapters in proportion to their number of members.**
- ❖ **Participation in the Modi&US event at Nassau Coliseum** - AIA National was proud to become a welcome partner with the Indian American Community in the Grand Reception of our beloved Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi at the Nassau Coliseum stadium in Long Island on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024.
- ❖ **Helping the needy seniors in collaboration with an established 25 years old organization NIAASC** – Collaborated with National Indo American Association for Senior Citizens (NIAASC) in organizing their 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference held on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at Kerala Center in Elmont, NY for the benefit of the Seniors.

I thank from the bottom of my heart to the whole National Executive Committee, Past Presidents, Trustees and the Members for all the help and support that they have extended to me throughout my term, which gives me the inspiration to strive hard and do much more.



## 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**"). We are now resuming publication of AIA's Newsletter after more than 20 years, keeping the same name ("**BETWEEN US**") which means communication between member.

### 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 ACHEIVEMENTS

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. **Publication of "Ananya"**: A Portrait of India: in 1997 in collaboration with India Study Center of Stony Brook University, New York. A highly acclaimed 968-page book on Indian Civilization. Was released at the 50th anniversary of India's independence at a Banquet in Waldorf Astoria
9. Celebration of Diwali at the White house in 2003.
10. Recognition of Diwali by City Council in 2004 and suspension of alternate street parking in all the 5 borrows of NYC in 2005 onwards .
11. 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.
12. AIA celebrated Golden Anniversary on DEC 1st 2018.
13. 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.
14. On May 6th 2023, AIA celebrated 75th anniversary of India's Independence at an Honor Banquet at Terrace on the Park in Flushing Meadow, New York attended by dignitaries like Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and NYC Mayor Eric Adams.
15. **Diwali is now declared as a public school Holiday in New York City Public Schools as well as a State Holiday** with the help from Assemblywoman Jennifer Rajkumar, Mayor Eric Adams and Others.



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



INSIDE

## AIA National Activities

- ❖ Inauguration Ceremony of its Newly Elected National Executive Committee (NEC) for 2024 & 2025 on Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- ❖ Modi&US Grand Reception Event at Nassau Coliseum on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024
- ❖ Collaboration of Association of Indians in America (AIA) with NIAASC (National Indo-American Association for Senior Citizens) 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Saturday November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## UPCOMING EVENT

- ❖ AIA Medical Council Awards Gala to be held on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 at a beautiful Venue CIPRIANI, 42<sup>nd</sup> St, Manhattan, NY

## AIA Activities

- ❖ Voter Registration Drive at Minnesota State Capitol with League of Women Voters on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- ❖ AIA Historic Diwali Celebration at the Minnesota State Capitol on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- ❖ AIA Desi Next - Raas Garba on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- ❖ AIA PROJECT INDIA - Donation of \$40,000 by AIA Project India to Global Vikas Trust in order to help the poor Indian farmers increase their Income

## New York Chapter Activities

- ❖ Annual Fund Raising Gala at Leonard's Palazzo with 200 Persons in Attendance on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024
- ❖ Annual Deepavali Celebrations on the East River (Skyline Princess Cruise Line, NY City) with 400 Persons aboard on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- ❖ Scholarship of \$10,000 to 10 deserving students for \$1,000 each Student to Queensborough Community College on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



INSIDE

## Illinois Chapter Activities

- ❖ India 78<sup>th</sup> Independence Day on August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- ❖ Youth Group Dance Competition on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## South New Jersey Activities

- ❖ 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Gandhi Art and Writing Competition on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## Madison Wisconsin Chapter Activities

- ❖ India's Independence Day August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 At Capitol Square, Madison, Wisconsin
- ❖ Garba & Dandiya Night October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- ❖ Diwali Celebrations on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at Madison, WI

## Florida Chapter Activities

- ❖ Indian Independence Day Festival and Hosts Consular Camp on August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## California Chapter Activities

- ❖ Organized cultural and educational programs of Indian Goddesses in collaboration with Sanskriti Legacy
- ❖ Donated \$21,000 to Rotary International to start a Dialysis Center in Kota Rajasthan



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## THE ASSOCIATION OF INDIANS IN AMERICA INC.

### Gobind Munjal

National President

### Vice Presidents

Sushma Kotahwala      Santosh Pandey  
Yashpal Arya      Uma Swaminathan

### Secretary

Gunjan Rastogi

### Treasurer

Gobind Bathija

### Medical Council Chairperson

Dolly Manvar, MD

### Medical Council Vice Chairs

Atul Kukar, DO, MBA      Aprajita Mattoo, MD  
Pallavi Manvar-Singh, MD      Pratichi Goenka, MD

### Chairman Board of Trustees

Samin Sharma, MD

### Board of Trustees

Vijay K. Kuchroo PhD	Ashutosh Tewari, MD	Jagat Narula, MD
Dattatreyu Nori, MD	Vijay Mattoo, MD	Ravi Bhooplapur
Neeraj Agrawal, MBA	Prem Bhandari	Naveen Shah
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Urmilesh Arya MD  
Shashi Shah MD  
Ghanshyam Pandey PhD  
Animesh Goenka  
Buddhadev N. Manvar MD  
Piyush Agarwal PhD

### Past National Presidents

Nirmal K. Mattoo MD	Surendra K. Saxena
Narinder M. Kukar MD	Dattatrey G. Lanjewar
H.V. Janardhan MD	Manoranjan Dutta
Jatinder P. Shah MD	Tapas Sen
Roshan L. Chadda	

### Members at Large

Anita Thakkar NY  
Aridaman Jain NJ  
Beena Kothari NY  
Indu Gajwani NY  
Jasbir (Jay) Singh NY  
Manoranjan Mishra IL  
Mohinder Singh Taneja NY

Neelam Modi NY	Salil Misra IL
Om Dhingra IL	Santosh Khera CA
Prem Mehrotra IL	Satish Anand MD NY
Rajeev Chaudhary NY	Sharmistha Dutta FL
Ram Tirumala NJ	Shashi Malik NY
Ramola Motwani FL	Sujata Seth NY
Roopam Jain NJ	Uma Eniasivam FL
	Usha Bansal NY

### Chapter Presidents

Jagdish Gupta MD NY	Alefya Ghariali FL
Lucy Pandey IL	Usha Kumar MD
Ram Tirumala NJ	Vijay Sharma WI
Arshi Duffley SNJ	Santosh Khera CA

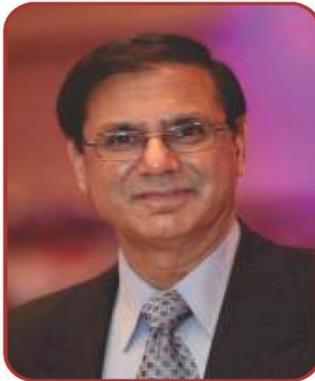


# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## THE ASSOCIATION OF INDIANS IN AMERICA

### NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS



**Gobind Munjal**

President



**Dr. YashPal Arya**  
Vice President NY



**Sushma Kotahwala**  
Vice President NY



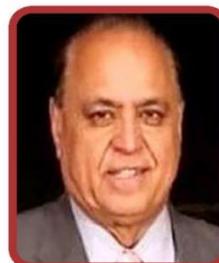
**Santosh Pandey**  
Vice President - IL



**Uma Swaminathan**  
Vice President NJ



**Gunjan Rastogi**  
Secretary



**Gobind Bathija**  
Treasurer



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



THE ASSOCIATION OF INDIANS IN AMERICA

## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AT LARGE



Uma Eniasivam FL



Aridaman Jain NJ



Satish Anand NY



Salil Mishra IL



Ram Tirumala NJ



Jasbir (Jay) Singh NY



Manoranjan Mishra IL



Mohinder Taneja NY



Anita Thakkar NY



Neelam Modi NY



OM Dhingra IL



Beena Kothari NY



Prem Mehrotra IL



Rajeev Chaudhary NY



Indu Gajwani NY



Santosh Khera CA



Sharmishta Dutta FL



Shashi Malik NY



Sujata Seth NY



Ramola Motwani FL



Usha Bansal M.D. NY



Vijay Sharma WI



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Chair Persons of the Committees



**Sushma Kotahwala**  
Chairperson of Membership List



**Dr. Dolly Manvar**  
Chairperson of Medical Council



**Atul Kukar, DO, MBA**  
Medical Council  
Vice Chair



**Aprajita Mattoo, MD**  
Medical Council  
Vice Chair



**Pallavi Manvar Singh, MD**  
Medical Council  
Vice Chair



**Pratichi Goenka, MD**  
Medical Council  
Vice Chair



**Santosh Pandey**  
Chairperson of  
ByLaws Committee



**Beena Kothari**  
Chairperson of  
Brochure Committee



**Rohit Vyas**  
Chairperson of the  
Investment Advisory  
Committee

## Chapter Presidents



**Jagdish Gupta, MD**  
President NY Chapter



**Lucy Pandey**  
President IL Chapter



**Alfeya Ghadiali**  
President FL Chapter



**Ram Trimula**  
President NJ Chapter



**Arshi Duffley**  
President SNJ Chapter



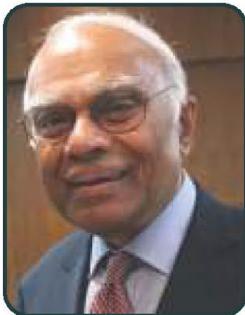
**Vijay Sharma**  
President Wisconsin Chapter



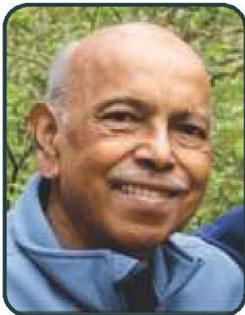
# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## NATIONAL PRESIDENTS AIA



**TAPAS SEN Ph.D**  
(1967-1970)



**RAM GNANADESIKAN**  
(1967-1970)



**ROSHAN L. CHADDA**  
(1971-1973)



**MANORANJAN DUTTA Ph.D**  
(1974-1977)



**DATTATREY G. LANJEWAR**  
(1978-1981)



**SURENDRA K. SAXENA Ph.D**  
(1982-1985)



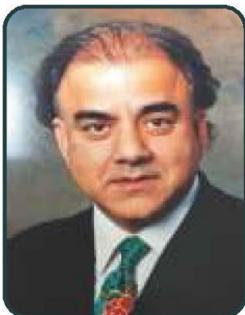
**JITENDRA P. SHAH M.D.**  
(1986-1989)



**H.V. JANARDHAN M.D.**  
(1990-1991)



**NARINDER M. KUKAR M.D.**  
(1992-1995)



**NIRMAL K. MATTOO M.D.**  
(1996-1999)



**PIYUSH C. AGRAWAL Ph.D**  
(2000-2003)



**BUDDHAEV N. MANVAR M.D.**  
(2004-2007)



**ANIMESH GOENKA**  
(2008-2011)



**GHANSHYAM PANDEY Ph.D**  
(2012-2013)



**SHASHI SHAH M.D.**  
(2014-2017)



**URMILESH ARYA M.D.**  
(2018-2021)



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA National Activities

The Association of Indians In America (AIA)  
Inauguration Ceremony of its Newly Elected National Executive Committee  
(NEC) for 2024 & 2025 on Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024



## Association of Indians in America NATIONAL AIA (NEC)

Cordially invites you to join

## ***INAUGURATION / OATH TAKING CEREMONY***

of

NATIONAL PRESIDENT GOBIND MUNJAL

&

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2024 & 2025

Chief Guest  
CONSUL GENERAL BINAYA S PRADHAN

**Saturday March 16th, 2024**  
**From 12 PM to 4 PM**

*Metropolitan Caterers*  
3 Pratt Blvd, Glen Cove, NY 11542  
Appetizers & Lunch will be served

RSVP



**Gobind Munjal**  
646 209 8244

**Gunjan Rastogi**  
718 490 0736

For out of State Members  
Zoom Meeting ID: 876 4896 0370  
Passcode: 004215

**Contribution**  
**\$60 per person**



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA National Activities

### **Press Release for The Association of Indians In America (AIA) Inauguration ceremony of its newly elected National Executive Committee (NEC) for 2024 & 2025 on Sunday, March 16th, 2024**

Gobind Munjal, the National President of The Association of Indians in America (AIA), was sworn-in once again for the 2nd term 2024 & 2025 along with his National Executive Committee in an exciting Inauguration ceremony arranged at Metropolitan Caterers in Glen Cove, Long Island on Saturday March 16th, 2024. Since AIA is a National organization, its out of State Members attended the ceremony via zoom.

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.

The occasion was graced by the chief guest Honorable Consul General Binaya S. Pradhan. The Inauguration and Oath ceremony was attended by about one hundred attendees. This included AIA founding members, board of Trustees, AIA National Past Presidents, chapter Presidents, community leaders, AIA members, friends, and the media partners.

Chief Guest Hon. Consul General of India in New York, Binaya S. Pradhan, in his opening Remarks, praised AIA for all that it has done for the community during its 56 years of history and commended the organization for its various achievements. He also suggested that if AIA could work on supporting the students coming from India to study here in the United States to get them internships and/or jobs, that will be very helpful. Consul General however pledged to work with AIA for outreach to the community.

National President Gobind Munjal was sworn-in by Honorable Consul General, Binaya Pradhan ji, who also administered the oath to Vice Presidents; Uma Swaminathan (NJ), Sushma Kotahwala (NY), Dr. Yash Pal Arya (NY), Santosh Pandey (IL), Secretary Gunjan Rastogi (NY) and Treasurer Gobind Bathija (NY). He also administered the oath to the members at large from all the states, namely Anita Thakkar (NY), Aridaman Jain (NJ), Beena Kothari (NY), Indu Gajwani (NY), Jasbir Singh (NY), Manoranjan Mishra (IL), Mohinder Taneja (NY), Neelam Modi (NY), OM Dhirgral (IL), Prem Mehrotra (IL), Rajeev Chaudhary (NY), Ram Tirumala (NJ), Ramola Motwani (FL), Salil Misra (IL), Santosh Khera (CA), Satish Anand (NY), Sharmistha Dutta (FL), Shashi Malik (NY), Sujata Seth (NY), Uma Eniasivam (FL), Usha Bansal (NY), Vijay Sharma (WI).

**In his speech, National President Munjal welcomed everyone and shared some of the NEC's achievements during his first term.**

- o **Honor Banquet and Celebration of 75th Anniversary of India's Independence** on May 6th, 2023 – attended by Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer & NYC Mayor Eric Adams.
- o **RESTARTED AIA National Newsletter ("BETWEEN US")** after a gap of about 20 years
- o **INITIATED Investment Advisory Committee** to invest life membership funds for income and long-term growth,
- o **Amended Bylaws of National AIA in 2023** after 30 years of gap.
- o **Energized young members and made them life members**
- o **Energized and Improved communications between the chapters**

**President also shared his Vision for the 2nd term:**

He reiterated that since the elections are over now, we will all work together as a unified team.

In pursuing the AIA's moto 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 country. 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.

President Munjal also shared his initiative of working on the immigration bill to reduce the time delay for Indian citizens to get the green card as well as H1 B visas. He said "AIA (NEC) is joining Gopio International and rallying some other organizations to join us in this initiative. Today it takes almost 15 to 20 years for an Indian citizen to get a green card, whereas some other nationalities get a green card in 1 year. We all are planning to go to Washington DC sometime in the end of April 2024 to meet the congressional leaders requesting them to support this bill"

All AIA leadership extended their good wishes and support. The program concluded with a traditional vote of thanks by the secretary. The program was very well planned and executed and was appreciated by all.



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA National Activities

**Pictures from The Association of Indians In America (AIA)  
Inauguration Ceremony of its Newly Elected National Executive Committee  
(NEC) for 2024 & 2025**





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA National Activities





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA National Activities





## AIA National Activities

### NORTH AMERICAN Newsline

MARCH 29, 2024 | The Indian Eye 22

# AIA hosts inauguration ceremony of its newly-elected National Executive Committee

*The occasion was graced by the chief guest Consul General Binaya S. Pradhan*

#### OUR BUREAU

New York, NY

Gobind Munjal, the National President of The Association of Indians in America (AIA), was sworn-in once again for the 2nd term 2024 & 2025 along with his National Executive Committee in an exciting Inauguration ceremony arranged at Metropolitan Caterers in Glen Cove, Long Island on Saturday March 16th, 2024. Since AIA is a National organization, its out of State Members attended the ceremony via zoom.

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The occasion was graced by the chief guest Consul General Binaya S. Pradhan. The Inauguration and Oath ceremony was attended by about one hundred attendees. This included AIA founding members, board of Trustees, AIA National Past Presidents, chapter Presidents, community leaders, AIA members, friends, and the media partners.

Chief Guest Consul General of India in New York, Binaya S. Pradhan, in his opening Remarks, praised AIA for all that it has done for the community during its 56 years of history and commended the organization for its various achievements. He also suggested that if AIA could work on supporting the students coming from India to study here in the United States to get them internships and/or jobs, that will be very helpful. Consul General however pledged to work with AIA for outreach to the community.

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## AIA National Activities

Friday 22 March to 28 March, 2024

### COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

INSIDER

2

## Gobind Munjal, sworn-in National President for the 2nd term

**The Association of Indians In America held impressive Inauguration ceremony, of its newly elected National Executive Committee**



(By Our Staff Reporter)- was attended by about one hundred attendees. Gobind Munjal, the National President of The Association of Indians in America (AIA), was sworn-in once again for the 2nd term 2024 & 2025 along with his community leaders, AIA members, National Executive Committee friends, and the media partners. an exciting Inauguration ceremony arranged at General of India in New York, Metropolitan Caterers in Glen Cove, Long Island on Saturday March 16th, 2024. Since AIA is a National organization, its out of State Members attended the ceremony via zoom.

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The occasion was graced by the chief guest Honorable Consul General Binaya S. Pradhan. The Consul General however pledged to work with AIA for Inauguration and Oath ceremony outreach to the community.



### Insurance

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Phone: 646 875 8495

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## AIA National Activities

4

March 22, 2024

CITY VIEWS

DESI TALK

### Association Of Indians In America Swears In National Executive Committee, Outlines Future Objectives

BY A STAFF WRITER

**G**obind Munjal, the National President of The Association of Indians in America (AIA), was sworn-in once again for the 2nd term 2024 & 2025 along with his National Executive Committee in an inauguration ceremony held at Metropolitan Caterers in Glen Cove, Long Island on Saturday March 16, 2024. Since AIA is a national organization, its out-of-state members attended the ceremony via zoom, a press release from organizers said. Close to 100 people attended in person.

Considered the oldest organization of Indian immigrants, the AIA was founded on August 20, 1967.

The chief guest at the swearing-in was India's Consul General Binaya Srikan Pradhan. Attendees included AIA founding members, board of Trustees, AIA National Past Presidents, chapter Presidents, community leaders, AIA members, and friends.

In his speech, Consul General Pradhan praised AIA for all that it has done for the community during its 56 years of history and also suggested AIA could work on supporting the students coming from India to study, with internships and/or jobs. He pledged to work with AIA for outreach to the community.

Consul General Pradhan administered the oath to President Munjal, and Vice Presidents Uma Swaminathan (NJ), Sushma Kotahwala (NY), Dr. Yash Pal Arya (NY), Santosh Pandey (IL), Secretary Gunjan Rastogi (NY) and Treasurer Gobind Bathija (NY). He also administered the oath to the members at large from all the states, namely Anita Thakkar (NY), Aridaman Jain (NJ), Beena Kothari (NY), Indu Gajwani (NY), Jasbir Singh (NY), Manoranjan Mishra (IL), Mohinder Taneja (NY), Neelam Modi (NY), OM Dhingra (IL), Prem Mehrotra (IL), Rajeev Chaudhary (NY), Ram Tirumala (NJ), Ramola Motwani (FL), Salil Misra (IL), Santosh Khera (CA), Satish Anand (NY), Sharmista Dutta (FL), Shashi Malik (NY), Sujata Seth (NY), Uma Eniasivam (FL), Usha Bansal (NY), Vijay Sharma (WI).

Munjal welcomed everyone and shared



The Association of Indians in America (AIA) National Executive Committee members who took the oath March 16, 2024, in Long Island, NY. Seen 3rd from right is India's Consul General in NY who administered the oath, and President Gobind Munjal, 2nd from left, along with other NEC members.



India's Consul General in New York Binaya Srikan Pradhan, speaking at the March 16, 2024, swearing in event for the Association of Indians in America's new national executive committee.



Gobind Munjal, president of AIA, speaking at the March 16, 2024, swearing in event for the Association of Indians in America's new national executive committee.

some of the National Executive Committee's achievements during his first term. These included:

- Honor Banquet and Celebration of 75th Anniversary of India's Independence on May 6th, 2023 – attended by Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer & NYC Mayor Eric Adams.
- Restarting AIA National Newsletter ("BETWEEN US") after a gap of about



A section of the audience attending the March 16, 2024, swearing in event for the Association of Indians in America's new national executive committee.



Past presidents of AIA with current President Gobind Munjal, center, and India's Consul General Binaya S. Pradhan, 2nd from left, at March 16, 2024, swearing in event in Long Island, NY.

20 years  
 • Initiating Investment Advisory Committee to invest life membership funds for income and long-term growth.  
 • Amending Bylaws of National AIA in 2023 after 30 years of gap.  
 • Energizing young members and making them life members  
 • Energizing and improving communications between the chapters  
 The AIA would work as a unified team to pursue the organization's motto of "Indian Heritage and American Commitment," Munjal said.

"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 country. We hope to work towards increasing that commitment," Munjal said.

As the demographic profile of the Indian American community has changed in past 5 decades since the founding of AIA, so have 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," Munjal said.

He talked of the efforts directed at the Immigration bill, to reduce the time delay for Indian citizens to get the green card as well as H1 B visas. "AIA (NEC) is joining GOPIO International and rallying some other organizations to join us in this initiative. Today it takes almost 15 to 20 years for an Indian citizen to get a green card, whereas some other nationalities get a green card in 1 year. We all are planning to go to Washington DC sometime in the end of April 2024 to meet the congressional leaders requesting them to support this bill," Munjal said.

All AIA leadership extended their good wishes and support. The program concluded with a traditional vote of thanks by the secretary.



## AIA National Activities

18<sup>th</sup>  
YEAR

THE INDIAN PANORAMA  
FRIDAY MAR 8, 2024

NY/NJ/CT | 3

### Legislator Mulé Sings National Anthem at Suffolk Legislature



MARCH 6, 2024

HAUPPAUGE, N.Y. (TIP): Nassau County Legislator Debra Mulé (D - Freeport) had the honor of singing the National Anthem to open the meeting of the Suffolk County Legislature on Tuesday, March 5. Legislator Mulé, a classically trained soprano vocalist who earned her Bachelor's Degree in Music from the College of William and Mary and currently serves as a cantor at Our Holy Redeemer R.C. Church in Freeport, accepted the invitation from Suffolk

County Legislator Rebecca Sanin (D - Huntington Station).

"It is always a privilege to honor our nation with the singing of the National Anthem, and I greatly appreciate Legislator Sanin's invitation to lead the Suffolk County Legislature in this cherished tradition," Legislator Mulé said. "I look forward to future opportunities to collaborate with Legislator Sanin and all of our Suffolk counterparts to tackle the most pressing issues facing our region."

### Gobind Munjal elected again as National President of AIA

MARCH 7, 2024

HICKSVILLE, NY (TIP): Gobind Munjal has been elected once again the National President of the oldest Association of Indians in America (AIA) for his 2nd term 2024 & 2025.

**ALONG WITH HIM, HIS FOLLOWING TEAM MEMBERS ALSO GOT ELECTED:**

#### VICE PRESIDENTS:

1. Sushma Kotahwala, past president of AIA NY Chapter;
2. Uma Swaminathan, the founding member and past president of NJ chapter of AIA
3. Santosh Pandey from Chicago, past President of Illinois Chapter,

#### TREASURER:

Gobind Bathija, President of Asa Mai Temple in Hicksville and well known, community leader

#### SECRETARY:

Gunjan Rastogi, Past President of IALI

#### MEMBERS AT LARGE:

20 in number from various States



Gobind Munjal, National President, AIA



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA National Activities

Pictures from Modi&US Grand Reception Event at Nassau Coliseum  
on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

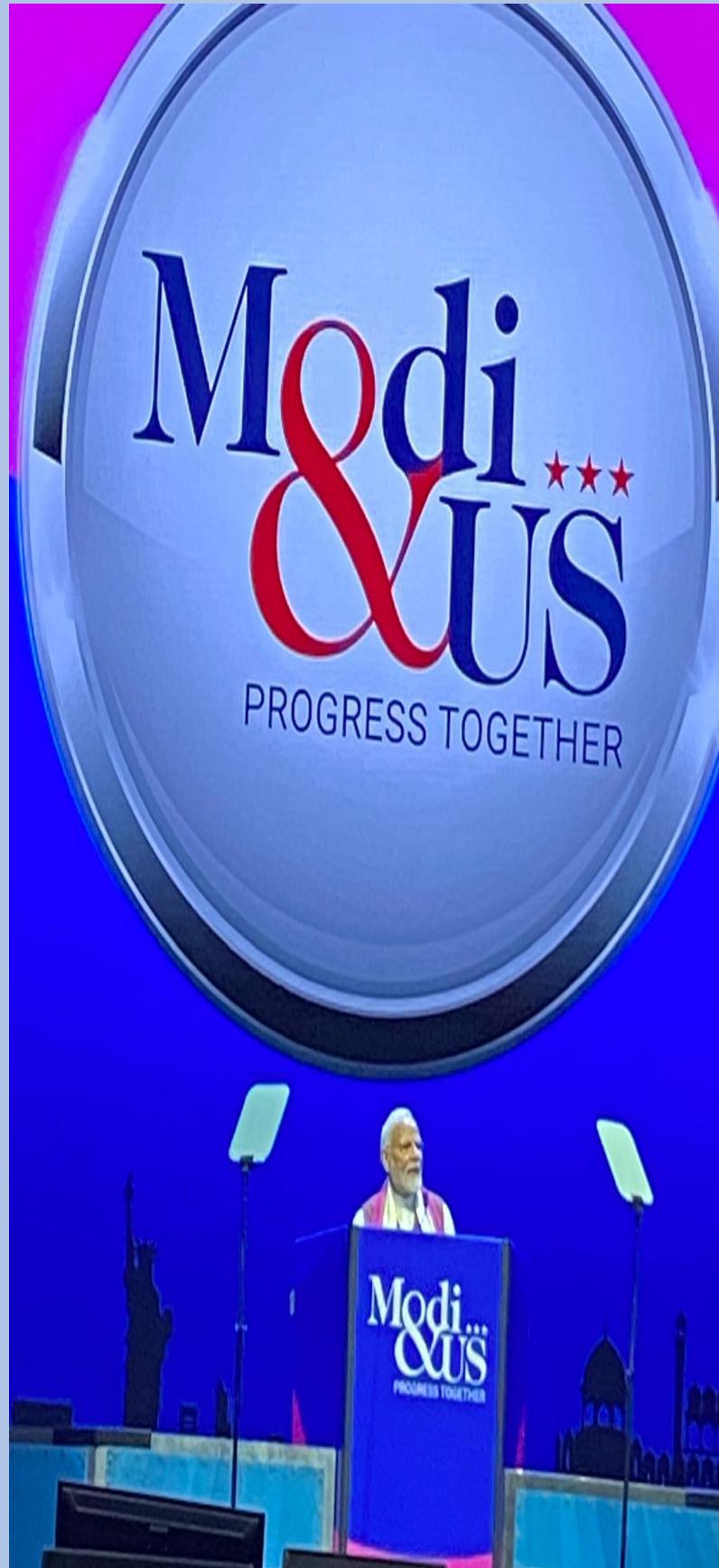




# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA National Activities





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA National Activities

**Collaboration of Association of Indians in America (AIA) with NIAASC (National Indo-American Association for Senior Citizens) 35th Annual Conference on Saturday November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024**



**NIAASC**  
**National Indo-American**  
**Association for Senior Citizens**  
**35th Annual Conference**  
**In Collaboration with**  
**Association of Indians in America (AIA)**

**&**

**Kerala Center**

**Please join us as we also celebrate**  
**25th anniversary of NIAASC**

**Saturday November 9th, 2024**

**Full Day Conference with Eminent Speakers**  
**From 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM**

**at**

***Kerala Center***

***1824 Fairfax St, Elmont, NY 11003***

**Breakfast, lunch and tea will be served**

**Admission is free but RSVP is a must**

**For sponsorship and more information**

**Call Gunjan Rastogi, President @ 718 490 0736**

**or**

**Rajeshwar Prasad, NIAASC Chairman @ 631 553 8804**

**NIAASC@AOL.COM**

**501 C3 Tax Exempt Nonprofit Association**



## AIA National Activities

हम हिंदुस्तानी, usa

Page 18

November 15-21, 2024  
[www.humbhindustaniusa.com](http://www.humbhindustaniusa.com)



### नैशनल इंडो-अमेरिकन एसोसिएशन फॉर सीनियर सिटीजन्स इंक द्वारा **25वीं वर्षगांठ हर्षलालस के साथ मनाई गई, कई विशेष शख्सियतों को किया सम्मानित**

समागम में जहां विभिन्न प्रवक्ताओं ने सीनियर सिटीजन्स के संदर्भ में अपने विचार प्रकट किए वहीं पर प्रबंधकों द्वारा कई विशेष शख्सियतों को विशेष रूप से सम्मानित किया गया। इस अवसर पर विशेष रूप से ब्रेकफास्ट, लंच एवं चाय-कॉफी का प्रबंध किया गया था....



#### न्यूयॉर्क। हम हिंदुस्तानी

नैशनल इंडो-अमेरिकन एसोसिएशन फॉर सीनियर सिटीजन्स इंक द्वारा आगे 25 वीं वर्षगांठ 9 नवम्बर को दिल्लीजन अमेरिकन केन्द्रल कल्याल एडिसिनिस सेटर 1824 फेयरफेस स्ट्रीट एलमार्ट

**हम हिंदुस्तानी**

न्यूयॉर्क में हर्षलालस के साथ मनाई गई समागम में जहां विभिन्न प्रवक्ताओं ने सीनियर सिटीजन्स के संदर्भ में आगे विचार प्रकट किए वहीं पर प्रबंधकों द्वारा कई विशेष शख्सियतों को विशेष रूप से सम्मानित किया गया। इस अवसर पर विशेष रूप से ब्रेकफास्ट, लंच एवं चाय-कॉफी का प्रबंध किया गया था। इस कार्यक्रम के सफल आयोजन में अद्यता गुजरान रसोयी एवं फाउंडर वेयरमेन राजेश्वर प्रसाद रहित अन्य गण्यमानों द्वारा बहुमूल्य योगदान दाला गया। कार्यक्रम के बाद नैशनल इंडो-अमेरिकन एसोसिएशन के विभिन्न सेक्टरों व एक नौन प्रॉफेट समूह ने जाके सीनियर सिटीजन्स को भलाई हुई काय करता है।

(शेष पृष्ठ 19 पर)





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA National Activities Upcoming Events



### THE ASSOCIATION OF INDIANS IN AMERICA Medical Council Awards

SATURDAY MAY 3, 2025

Cipriani

110 East 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017

6:30 P.M. RECEPTION  
7:45 P.M. DINNER

**\$575.00 Per Guest**  
Black Tie Attire

Gobind Munjal  
AIA National President

Dolly Manvar, MD  
Medical Council Chairperson

Atul Kukar, DO, MBA  
Aprajita Mattoo, MD  
Pallavi Manvar-Singh, MD  
Pratichi Goenka, MD  
Vice Chairs



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA National Activities Upcoming Events



### THE ASSOCIATION OF INDIANS IN AMERICA

Gobind Munjal  
**National President**

#### Vice Presidents

Sushma Kotahwala  
Uma Swaminathan

Santosh Pandey  
Yashpal Arya MD

**Secretary**  
Gunjan Rastogi

**Treasurer**  
Gobind Bathija

#### Medical Council Chairperson

Dolly Manvar, MD

#### Medical Council Vice Chairs

Atul Kukar, DO, MBA  
Pallavi Manvar-Singh MD

Aprajita Mattoo, MD  
Pratichi Goenka, MD

#### Banquet Host Committee

Nilima Madan  
Gunjan Rastogi  
Gobind Bathija  
Beena Kothari

#### Chairman Board of Trustees

Samin Sharma, MD

#### Board of Trustees

Vijay K. Kuchroo PhD  
Dattatreyu Nori, MD  
Neeraj Agrawal, MBA  
Urmilesh Arya, MD

Ashutosh Tewari, MD  
Vijay Mattoo, MD  
Prem Bhandari  
Suresh Gupta, MD

Jagat Narula, MD  
Ravi Bhooplapur  
Naveen Shah  
Bharat Barai, MD

Urmilesh Arya MD  
Shashi Shah MD  
Ghanshyam Pandey  
Animesh Goenka  
Buddhadev N. Manvar MD  
Piyush Agarwal

Nirmal K. Mattoo MD  
Narinder M. Kukar MD  
H.V. Janardhan  
Jatinder P. Shah  
Roshan L. Chadda

Surendra K. Saxena  
Dattatrey G. Lanjewar  
Manoranjan Dutta  
Tapas Sen

#### Members at Large

Anita Thakkar NY  
Aridaman Jain NJ  
Beena Kothari NY  
Indu Gajwani NY  
Jasbir (Jay) Singh NY  
Manoranjan Mishra IL  
Mohinder Singh Taneja NY

Neelam Modi NY  
Om Dhingra IL  
Prem Mehrotra IL  
Rajeev Chaudhary NY  
Ram Tirumala NJ  
Ramola Motwani FL  
Roopam Jain NJ

Salil Misra IL  
Santosh Khera CA  
Satish Anand MD NY  
Sharmistha Dutta FL  
Shashi Malik NY  
Sujata Seth NY  
Uma Eniasivam FL  
Usha Bansal NY

#### Chapter Presidents

Jagdish Gupta MD NY  
Lucy Pandey IL  
Ram Tirumala NJ  
Alefya Ghariali FL  
Usha Kumar MD  
Vijay Sharma WI



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA National Activities Upcoming Events



### THE ASSOCIATION OF INDIANS IN AMERICA

#### AIA Medical Council

##### Honorees



Deepak L. Bhatt MD, MPH, MBA, FACC, FAHA, FESC, MSAI, is the Director of the Mount Sinai Fuster Heart Hospital and the Dr. Valentin Fuster Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City.

Dr. Bhatt has authored or co-authored over 2000 publications in the field of Cardiovascular Medicine and is one of the co-editors of Braunwald's Heart Disease. He has been the principal investigator in multiple seminal trials that have helped shape the way cardiovascular disease is treated. He has served as a Trustee of the ACC and currently serves on the Board of Directors of the AHA NYC chapter.

<https://deepakbhattmd.com/>



Latha Chandran, MD, MPH, MBA currently serves as the Executive Dean for Education and Policy and the Bernard J. Fogel Founding Chair of the Department of Medical Education at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine.

In this role, she led the implementation of the innovative NextGenMD curriculum in 2020. She supervises all graduate medical education and continuing medical education programs, as well as the university's Biomedical Master's and PhD programs. She also directs the Academy of Medical Education Scholars at the Miller School of Medicine, focusing on advancing educational scholarship.

<https://med.miami.edu/faculty/latha-chandran-md-mph-mba>



Dr. Chethan Sathya MD is a board-certified pediatric trauma surgeon, Medical Director of the Trauma Program at Cohen Children's Medical Center, and a NIH-funded firearm injury prevention researcher.

He currently serves as the Vice President of Strategic Initiatives and the Director of the Center for Gun Violence Prevention at Northwell Health. Dr. Sathya participates in the Gun Violence Healthcare Advisory Group sponsored by the Executive Office of the White House and is a public health advisor to the US Surgeon General. He was also featured in the docuseries Emergency NYC for Netflix in 2023

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt26940348/>). Link to Website  
<https://www.northwell.edu/chethan-sathya-md>



Dr. Shuvendu Sen is a great physician, writer and a motivational speaker.

He has contributed in Medical Education and he has a Holistic treatment approach through Meditation, Yoga and the Arts. He has been honored by the United Nations, NY State Senate and American College of Physicians to name few of them.

His work of Fiction and Nonfiction have been published in various journals and Newspapers.

He has authored many books and has received many awards for them, more famous being Why Buddha Never Had Alzheimer's.

<https://www.shuvendusen.com/>



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA National Activities Upcoming Events



### THE ASSOCIATION OF INDIANS IN AMERICA

#### AIA Medical Council Honorees

##### PRECEDING CHARAKA AND SUSRUTA HONOREES (MEDICAL COUNCIL AWARD HONOREES)

1993

KULD. CHADDA, M.D  
RAJ K. GOYAL, M.D  
UMA MYSOREKAR, M.D  
JATIN P. SHAH, M.D  
V.A SUBRAMANIAN, M.D

1994

KANU CHATTERJEE, M.D  
KANTI R. RAI, M.D  
CHITRANJAN S. RANAWAT, M.D  
NARESH TREHAN, M.D

1995

ABUL K. ABBAS, MD  
CHARLES J. PANDOLA, MD  
INDER MOHAN VERMA, MD  
DHARMAPURI VIDYASAGAR, MD

2002

NAVIN C. NANDA, MD  
JAYOUT RADHA KRISHNAN, MD  
K. RAJENDER REDDY, MD  
PRAVIN C. SINGHAL, MD

2010

SAMIN SHARMA, M.D.  
MANI MENON, M.D.  
SANJEEV GUPTA, M.D.  
POONAM ALAIGH, M.D.



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA National Activities Upcoming Events



### THE ASSOCIATION OF INDIANS IN AMERICA

#### MEDICAL COUNCIL AWARDS

Cipriani NY NY

SATURDAY, MAY 3rd, 2025

### SPONSORSHIP CARD

Mr/ Dr/ Mrs \_\_\_\_\_

Organization\_\_\_\_\_

Will Attend Dinner & Number of Guests \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetarian \_\_\_    Chicken \_\_\_    Fish \_\_\_    Lamb \_\_\_

**\$575 Per Guest**

Please make your check payable to  
Association of Indians in America Inc. (AIA)  
Mail as c/o Gobind Bathija  
P.O. Box 705, Shirley, NY 11967

OR

Zelle the money to [ainationalinfo@gmail.com](mailto:ainationalinfo@gmail.com)

OR

Register on Zeffy for Payment of \$\_\_\_\_\_ Sent on \_\_\_\_\_ at  
<https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/2025-aia-medical-council-gala>

Enclosed is Check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ Dt. \_\_\_\_\_

For # Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ OR # Table \_\_\_\_\_ & to cover my Ad \_\_\_\_\_

Unable to attend, but enclosed is Check OR sent Zeffy/Zelle  
for \$\_\_\_\_\_ as my contribution for \_\_\_\_\_ & to cover Ad \_\_\_\_\_

For more information, please visit us at [www.ainational.org](http://www.ainational.org)

**KINDLY PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN THIS PAGE**

R.S.V.P. Dr. Dolly Manvar 516 993 7612

By March 31st, 2025



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA National Activities Upcoming Events



### **THE ASSOCIATION OF INDIANS IN AMERICA**

**KINDLY PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN THIS PAGE**

**GRAND SPONSOR** \$35,000

Three Special Tables

Full page ad in the journal

**DIAMOND SPONSOR** \$25,000

Two Special Tables

Full page ad in the journal

**PLATINUM SPONSOR** \$20,000

Two Special Table

**GOLD SPONSOR** \$15,000

One Special table

**CORPORATE SPONSOR** \$10,000

One Table

Each Table Accommodates 10 Guests

### **Commemorative Journal**

Your ad will appear on or within an 8.5"x 11" page. All artwork submitted must be camera ready or an Adobe PDF document.

No faxed artwork will be accepted. Email to [beena.kothari@gmail.com](mailto:beena.kothari@gmail.com) with a copy to [gunjan.p.rastogi@gmail.com](mailto:gunjan.p.rastogi@gmail.com)

**BACK COVER PAGE** \$10,000 **SILVER PAGE** \$2000

**INSIDE COVER PAGE** \$5000 **FULL PAGE** \$1000

**GOLD PAGE** \$2,500 **HALF PAGE** \$600

**YOUR SPECIAL NOTE**.....

.....  
.....  
.....

Please restrict my donations to benefit Association of Indians in America Charities

We understand that the surplus money from the event will be donated to AIA Designated Charity

**NAME(S)**.....

**TITLE / COMPANY / FOUNDATION**.....

I/We would like to be listed in printed materials by Name  and/or  Company/Foundation

(Please print above exactly as you wish to appear in printed materials)

**ADDRESS**.....

**CITY /STATE/ZIP**.....

**TELEPHONE** ..... **EMAIL**.....

Please send mail to: Association of Indians in America c/o Gobind Bathija, P.O. Box 705, Shirley, NY 11967.

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ ..... made payable to Association of Indians in America Inc.

Zelle in the amount of \$ ..... Sent on ..... to [ainationalinfo@gmail.com](mailto:ainationalinfo@gmail.com)

Registered on Zeffy for Payment of \$ ..... Sent on ..... through the link given below.

<https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/2025-aia-medical-council-gala>



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA Activities

### Pictures from Voter Registration Drive at Minnesota State Capitol with League of Women Voters on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024





## AIA Activities

14 | US

THE INDIAN PANORAMA  
FRIDAY SEP 20, 2024

78<sup>th</sup>  
YEAR

# Voter Registration Drive at Minnesota State Capitol with League of Women Voters

SEPTEMBER 14, 2024

**MINNESOTA (TIP):** High school student volunteers joined the League of Women Voters of Edina (LWVE) and community workers to educate and register voters at the Annual IndiaFest Festival at the Minnesota State Capitol grounds in St. Paul.

Edina High School senior Anoushka Jha and her sister Aditi Jha, a sophomore, regularly participate in voter registration drives at naturalization ceremonies and community events. "I have been volunteering for a while, and am excited to vote when I'm 18," said Anoushka. "While the nation's focus is on the presidential election, I believe that local elections are equally important."

Anoushka and Aditi credit their parents Drs. Vaishali and Gautam Jha, preeminent physicians and distinguished members of the community for their support.

"We talk about politics frequently and often have spirited discussions about current issues," said Aditi, who wants to be a lawyer and is very interested in public policy. She continued, "My parents support my passion for policy and regularly take time off from their busy schedule to support me."

"We are happy to join local student-leaders in enlisting citizens to register and vote," said Gopal Khanna, former National Vice President of the Association of Indians in America (AIA) who is currently chairing AIA's national initiative on civic responsibility and community service. "Democracy is strong when people are engaged. It's a privilege and responsibility of every citizen to participate in the electoral process of the country." He continued, "I am heartened to see high schoolers taking the lead to work with LWVE and volunteering at the voter registration booth. I am inspired by their sense of duty and civic responsibility."

Anoushka wants to pursue a career in medicine but is equally interested in politics and public policy. "I am concerned about the future of healthcare," she said. "It constitutes about 17% of GDP and will be about 25% of the nation's economy by the time I enter the practice. It's an unsustainable model. My generation of future physicians need to think about policy as well, and be part of defining the future of medicine."

Her sister chimed in, "As nextGen Americans and children of immigrants we need to continue that legacy of service to our country. The best way to do that is by exercising our right to vote."

"In addition to voting we have a unique opportunity to participate in the upcoming elections at polling



High school student volunteers joined the League of Women Voters of Edina (LWVE) and community workers to educate and register voters at the Annual IndiaFest Festival at the Minnesota State Capitol grounds in St. Paul

stations," said Khanna. "Precinct and caucus in every state need polling judges. People can call their city council and sign up to be an election judge. There is no better way to experience first-hand the workings of our electoral process, and to ensure its sanctity. I urge people across the country to sign up at their respective city hall as soon as possible. Time is of the essence."

"AIA remains committed to helping anyone who wishes to participate in voter registration drives or participate in polling booths", said Gobind Munjal, National president of AIA. He added, "AIA has a long-standing tradition of leading and supporting voter registration drives." Added Khanna, "As a community our goal needs to be the one that has the highest rate of voter participation in the country. That's a true hallmark of engaged citizenry."

Minnesota, land of 10,000 lakes, is home to over 40,000 people of Indian origin. Minnesota's growing and thriving Indian-American community has enriched the state in all walks of life from art, music, science, technology, medicine, education, research, academia, entrepreneurship and politics and policy.

### ABOUT AIA:

Established in 1967, the Association of Indians in America is the oldest national organization of Indian Americans whose motto is: "Indian Heritage and American Commitment."

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL:

Gobind Munjal, National President, AIA  
M: 646-209-8244; Email: gpmunjal@gmail.com



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA Activities

### Pictures from AIA Historic Diwali Celebration at the Minnesota State Capitol on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024





## AIA Activities

# The Indian EYE

Connecting with India and Indians around the world

### Minnesota celebrates Diwali with Lieutenant Governor, Bringing Indian Heritage to the Fore



(L-R) AIA Diwali Coordinator Vallabha Tantry, Rep Robbins, Lt Governor Peggy Flanagan with HSMN Chair Ganesh Ram lighting of the traditional Diwali lamp

For Indian Americans across the State of Minnesota, October 15, 2024, Tuesday marked a historic moment, as the leadership from the community celebrated Diwali at the state capitol in Saint Paul, Minnesota with Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan. This marks the second celebration in two years, putting the State on track to institutionalizing DIWALI celebration as an annual event at the State Capitol.

The celebration began with the recitation of opening prayers by Chief Priest Murali Bhattar ji of the Hindu Society of Minnesota (HSMN). A bhajan of Lord Rama was sung by Shruti Rajasekar, with members of the audience joining in and creating a welcoming spiritual environment consistent with the age old traditions of Sanatam Dharma. Following the devotional song, Siddhi Tantry, a junior at Wayzata High School, performed a traditional Indian classical dance. Several other high schoolers also attended the event and volunteered their time.

Priest Murali Bhattar opening prayers along with MC of the event Sarang Tantry

"We need to encourage and engage our children in important community events and prepare the next generation to lead," said Vallabha Tantry, who was the AIA coordinator of Minnesota State Diwali function. "Amongst others, guests included leaders from the Hindu Society of Minnesota, BAPS, India Association of Minnesota (IAM), and the Jain Community Center making it a very inclusive celebration," she added. Eminent leaders from the Business, Arts and Music, and the community at large were also part of the second Diwali event at the State Capitol.

Minnesota State Representatives Kristin Robbins and Ginny Klevorn, and other public officials welcomed and greeted the guests and expressed great enthusiasm for having the opportunity of celebrating Diwali with the Hindu Community. Lauding the contributions of the Indian American community as an exemplar in integrating and building trust, she said "I join you in celebrating light overcoming the darkness."

Lauding the contributions made by some 40,000 plus Indian Americans who live in Minnesota, Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan said, "As a parent, I know that creating a better place for our young people, that it is vitally important to ensure that our youngest people know about our family stories, their traditions, their identity, and they take pride in that identity and can celebrate their heritage." In her heartfelt remarks welcoming the community leaders, Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan emphasized the importance of embracing diversity and the role that the community plays in making Minnesota great.

The Lt. Governor also stressed the significance of identity and celebrating your culture and heritage, as well as the responsibility to ensure that everyone feels seen, heard, and welcomed. Governor Tim Walz, the Democratic Party nominee for Vice President, issued a special Proclamation declaring October as The Hindu Heritage Month. The proclamation acknowledges the millions of Hindu, Sikh, Jain, and Buddhist followers living in the United States and the vibrant Indian community in Minnesota.

It highlights the immense contributions made by Indian Americans in various fields, including science, education, medicine, law, politics, business, technology, culture, and sports. This proclamation signifies the cultural richness and diversity that the Indian American community brings to Minnesota.

Lt. Governor Flanagan was joined by AIA Coordinator Vallabha Tantry, state representatives Kristin Robbins and Ginny Klevorn, as well as the chairman of the Hindu Society of Minnesota, Ganesh Ram, to light the traditional Deyas.



## AIA Activities



### Indian Americans celebrate Diwali at Minnesota State Capitol with the Lieutenant Governor



(L-R) AIA Diwali Coordinator Peggy Flanagan, Rep Robbins, Lt Governor Flannigan with HSMN Chair Ganesh Ram lighting of the traditional Diwali lamp.

Minnesota youth Siddhi Tantry performing at the Diwali celebrations held in the State Capitol Oct. 15, 2024.



Among others, guests included leaders from the Hindu Society of Minnesota, BAPS, India Association of Minnesota (IAM), and the Jain Community Center making it a very inclusive celebration. Leaders from the business, arts and music, and community-at-large gathered for the event.

Minnesota State Representatives Kristin Robbins and Ginny Klevorn, and other public officials welcomed guests and expressed enthusiasm for having the opportunity to celebrate Diwali with the Hindu community. They lauded the contributions of Indian Americans, who number more than 40,000 in the state.

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Lt. Governor Flannigan was joined by AIA Coordinator Vallabha Tantry, State Representatives Kristin Robbins and Ginny Klevorn, as well as the chairman of the Hindu Society of Minnesota, Ganesh Ram, to light the traditional Diya.

Expressing pride in the Diwali celebration at the State Capitol in Minnesota, Govind Munjal, AIA National President said, "We remain committed to working with community leaders all across the country to support cultural activities like Diwali that bring happiness and joy to all Americans."

Vallabha Tantry and Gopal Khanna representing the Association of Indians in America (AIA) in Minnesota worked with the governor's office in bringing Diwali to the State Capitol for the second year.

Gopal Khanna, former National Vice President of the Association of Indians in America (AIA) said "AIA national continues to work in furthering its motto – "Indian Heritage and American commitment."

"The historic Diwali celebration at the Minnesota State Capitol serves as a reminder of the values of unity, cultural appreciation, and religious freedom that make Minnesota a welcoming and inclusive state," said Vallabha Tantry, coordinator of the event.

The vote of thanks for the event was delivered by Aditi Jha, a sophomore at Edina High School.



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA Activities

AIA Desi Next Raas Garba on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024

देदेही  
**NEXT**

DesiNext & AIA  
proudly present...  
*Beats & Beliefs*



# Garba-Raas 2024

Saturday, October 26, 2024

7:30pm - 10:30pm

Asa Mai Temple Ballroom

80 E. Barclay St. Hicksville, NY 11801

Admission - \$20 per adult  
\$15 per child (under 10 years old)

Live Music: The Sajda Sisters  
(finalists in the show X Factor India)

Dinner included  
in the ticket price



Dandiya for sale  
at the event

Buy your tickets!

[Click here](#) or  
Scan the QR Code



For inquiries, please reach out:

516-595-3691 / 631-745-5659

Planning Team:

Nikita Raina • Pratichi Goenka • Harish Thakkar





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA Activities

### Pictures from AIA Desi Next Raas Garba





## AIA Activities

### AIA PROJECT INDIA CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOCIETY

Donation of \$40,000 by AIA Project India to Global Vikas Trust in order to help the poor Indian farmers increase their Income.

Fwd: Global Vikas Trust - Donation Receipt - The Association of Indians in America - Project India

**Subject: Global Vikas Trust - Donation Receipt - The Association Of Indians in America - Project India**

Dear Ma'am,

Your Donation Contribution of **USD 40,000/-** to Global Vikas Trust is successfully processed. We thank you for your contribution to helping our farmer brothers and sisters and consequently to **Transform India**.

**Please find the attached:**

1. Donation Receipt
2. FCRA Certificate

Besides, We would like to share our:

- **Project Goal** - Transforming India by increasing annual farmer incomes over USD 1176 per acre.
- **Project Intro** - Global Vikas Trust's nation-building movement started by Mayank Gandhi works for rural economic transformation goals with a focus on rural economy & environment.
- **Current plantations** include Papaya, Banana, Mango, Orange, Sweet Lime, Lemon, Custard Apple, Guava, Drumsticks, Mogra, Coconut, Pomegranate, Mulberry (Sericulture) along with intercropping of different kinds of short term crops.

- You can also find attached a detailed Background Note and an Intro presentation about Global Parli.

We would also like to invite you to watch either of these **Documentary films**:

- V1: (25 mins): Transform India

- V2: (14 mins): Transform India

Thanks & Regards,  
Mandakini Dhanure



#### Accounts Team

Global Vikas Trust - An initiative by **Mayank Gandhi**  
INDIA CAN WAIT NO MORE!

+91 8591314656 | [www.globalvikastrust.org](http://www.globalvikastrust.org)



## AIA Activities



1202, Mohini Tower, 5th Rd, Govind Dham, Khar West, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400052  
Phone: +91 8591314651 | Email: [connect@globalvikastrust.org](mailto:connect@globalvikastrust.org) | Reg. No.: E 33025  
[www.globalvikastrust.org](http://www.globalvikastrust.org) | [www.facebook.com/globalparli](https://www.facebook.com/globalparli) | [www.twitter.com/globalparli](https://www.twitter.com/globalparli)

## Global Vikas Trust



Global Vikas Trust (GVT) is a not-for-profit organization with a mission to transform India by increasing farmers' income. GVT was established in 2016 with a specific focus on the rural economy, environment and 360° development of our farmers & their families. In the past few years, GVT has been able to empower **25,900+ farmers in 4,600+ villages from 27 districts in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat.** This has been possible by creating a movement of farmers to change their cropping patterns, enhance their knowledge by adding the latest technologies of modern farming as well as working on innovative marketing processes to increase their annual incomes from Rs. 10,000 - 40,000 to over **1 lakh Rs. per acre.** So far we have planted **5.5 crore+ fruit trees** that have helped in **multiplying farmers' income** as well as bringing **environmental benefits and sustainability.**

We began this journey by choosing drought susceptible, poverty-ridden, and suicide-prone villages of Parli taluka in Beed district in the Marathwada region of Maharashtra, as we felt that if we could transform the worst area in the country, then we could do it across the country.

GVT started addressing these issues by a comprehensive intervention at 4 levels - water, soil, cropping patterns and farming practices. Our solution takes progressive measures to ensure:

- Effective and efficient water management practices
- Adoption of remunerative crops over traditional crops
- Adoption of best farming practices to ensure proper cultivation
- Soil quality management by way of using organic materials. Increasing carbon content through sequestration.

With 1,000's of farmers benefiting from increased income, we are in a position to encourage and inspire millions of farmers across the country to join this rapid rural economic development movement.

We have undertaken work in the following fields of operations :

**Forward linkages:** We currently intend to promote the development of forward-linkage units, procurement centres, sort-pack-clean units, farm-to-consumer marketing, cold storage, processing units and post-harvest management.



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA Activities

**Replication:** We are replicating the model across India. In addition to Maharashtra, we have done plantations in the states of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat, and talks have been initiated for fruit plantations in other states too.

**Institutionalization:** We aim to work in collaboration with governments and international organizations to guide the creation of policies and reforms. An international standard, centre of excellence is being constructed. This is part of a hub-and-spoke model of training farmers.

Our end goal is to transform India with scale, speed, focus and impact.

## Background to Transform India

(Through a thoughtful, constructive people's movement to transform India, with scale, speed and focus)

### Preamble

Farming across the nation had become unviable and rural poverty and unrest were increasing along with migration. Increasing viability will reduce unemployment, reduce migration and retain the youth in farming to use the new progressive policies to bring in fresh energy and vitality.

India has always been able to change through movements and will change in future as well — the independence movement, the movement against the emergency, Mandir, Mandal and the recent Anna movement to cite some examples. However, all of these were destructive or confrontational movements that knew "how to break a building, but did not have a cohesive plan to make a new one"

India needs a movement that is developmental, a movement that has positive outcomes, in short, a *Zindabad* movement.

## Plan

A plan was made to create a replicable 'proof of concept' movement of farmers to increase their annual incomes to over 1 lakh/acre. (Typically, annual farmers' income across the country is Rs. 10,000 to 40,000 per acre).

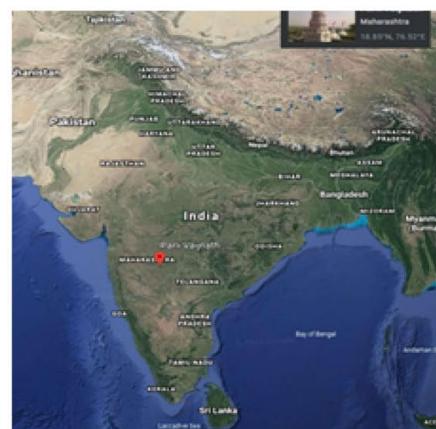
This model must then be replicated and scaled up to cover the nation. That can happen to an extent by our efforts. It must snowball through sustained government interventions and institutionalization.

Some relevant facts:

- There are 6.43 lakh villages in India
- 68.8 % of people stay in Rural India
- Rural poverty is 25.7% with poverty levels @Rs. 32 per day

### A. Proof of Concept

- We selected probably the worst poverty-affected area in the country (Taluka Parli, Dist Beed, Marathwada, Maharashtra) where there were regular droughts. It had the dubious



INDIA CAN WAIT NO MORE!



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA Activities

distinction of a high farmer suicide rate and "People were living because they were not dead."

- b) We formed a trust called Global Vikas Trust in 2016 to take up various nation-building missions.
- c) The first year was spent supplying water through tankers and doing 360-degree development in 15 villages (education, livelihood, water management, healthcare, skill development, capacity building, social reforms, gram swaraj etc).
- d) It was in 2018 that we really embarked on the mission to transform Indian villages. People participation, scale (multiplying incomes and geographical spread) and speed are our working hallmarks.
- e) Water harvesting and conservation is the fountainhead for any agricultural endeavour. Once the fountainhead is established, all agricultural activity will flourish. This logically leads to maximizing income from land. Horticulture is the answer. In 2018, we created 222 crore litres of water storage — 70 km of deepening and widening of the river and its tributaries, 164 farm ponds, 62 check dams, 5 KT weirs etc. All of this was accomplished through machine work and 'shramdaan' — the voluntary physical labour of thousands of villagers. It brought credibility and support to all the stakeholders and converted into a people's movement.
- f) In 2019, we motivated the farmers to change their cropping patterns and convert part of their farms to fruit plantations. A total of 11.87 lakh fruit trees were planted by farmers including mango, papaya, drumsticks, lemon, guava, custard apple etc.
- g) Armed with a powerful technical team, we did a detailed gap analysis and realized that there were four critical interventions that we needed to make to achieve the primary objective of multiplying farmers' income several times over.
  - a. Change cropping patterns to remunerative fruit plantations. Provide the best variety of fruit saplings, resilient, fruitful and best suited to the local agro-climatic condition.
  - b. Marry traditional farming techniques with the most modern know-how and processes to achieve high quality and better-than-US yields.
  - c. Plant in large clusters so that the market converges to our farmers rather than the other way around and wholesalers converge to our farmers to purchase their produce.
  - d. Facilitate forward linkages like innovative marketing, value-added post-harvest processing, input procurement, supply chain etc.
- i) Despite the lockdown due to COVID-19, in 2020, we planted around 19 lakh fruit trees.



### B. Replication and scaling up

Post-2019, we have added Palghar district in Maharashtra and some districts of Madhya Pradesh.



### C. Institutionalization

To reach even a substantial proportion of villages in the country, we need to involve the government in this mission. We need to work closely with various governments — Central, State and Local, autonomous bodies like Niti Aayog etc. We need to



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA Activities

influence, convince and participate with the policymakers to implement this successful replicable model and increase farmers' income and GDP.

### Facts:

1. Only 4.37% of the arable land of India is under fruit plantation.
2. The yield of fruits per hectare in India is 13.03 Ton (US is 23.3 T/ha)
3. If 11% of land (China 13.95% land) goes under fruit plantation in India, then the increased incomes for farmers will increase by 6 lakh crores (@2 lakhs/acre or Rs 5 lakh/acre) per year.
4. This would mean a 3% increase in GDP (GDP for 2018 =Rs 200 lakh crores)

Besides the agricultural income, there can be a tremendous increase in connected industries (mostly MSMEs), Exports, Supply chains etc. For the above, the Global Vikas Trust team has met some of the key decision-makers of the country.

### D. Centre of Excellence ("GVT Krisihikul")

An international standard farmer training centre "GVT Krishikul" along with experimental model farms has begun, coming up at Parli Dist. Beed in Maharashtra. This will consist of 20 model farms each of which will have plantations of different varieties of fruits which can increase the incomes of farmers by many times.



**Objective:** Knowledge dissemination and capacity building to improve rural Indian farmers' know-how and agricultural capabilities

### Components:

- Demonstration facilities
- Agricultural Ashram
- Training and extension facilities
- R&D facilities and Lab

### Functions:

- Introduction of advanced agro-technology
- Basic agricultural and farm management studies
- Train farmers in advanced agricultural practices
- Provision of continuous guidance and extension
- Conduct applicable agricultural R&D



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA Activities

### Next steps for 2025:

- **Identification of New Areas:** Conduct a comprehensive assessment to identify regions with water scarcity and high poverty levels where fruit tree plantations can be established. Focus on areas where traditional crops struggle due to water scarcity but have potential for fruit tree cultivation with proper water management techniques.
- **Expansion of Fruit Tree Plantation Program:** Extend the fruit tree plantation program to additional districts across Maharashtra state. Collaborate with local farmers to introduce fruit tree cultivation, providing them with training, resources, and ongoing support. Emphasize the economic benefits of fruit tree cultivation, highlighting how it can significantly increase farmers' income over time.
- **Sustainable Water Initiatives:** Prioritize the implementation of sustainable water initiatives, notably through the construction of Global River Aqushafts (GRA). These GRA structures effectively recharge aquifers and raise the water table, crucially addressing water scarcity while enhancing water access in rural communities and agricultural sectors. By ensuring dependable water sources for both farming activities and domestic needs, this approach fosters resilience and prosperity among vulnerable populations.
- **GVT Krishikul Farmer Training Institute:** Through the upcoming GVT Krishikul Farmer Training Institute, our goal is to empower farmers with modern agricultural techniques and knowledge. By providing comprehensive training programs, workshops, and access to agricultural experts, we aim to enhance the capabilities and know-how of rural Indian farmers. This initiative will enable farmers to adopt innovative farming practices, increase crop yields, and improve their livelihoods.

### INDIA CAN WAIT NO MORE!

Watch our short film: [Transform India](#)

Email: [connect@globalvikastrust.org](mailto:connect@globalvikastrust.org)



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## New York Chapter Activities

**Pictures from Annual Fund Raising Gala at Leonard's Palazzo  
with 200 Persons in Attendance on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024**





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## New York Chapter Activities





## New York Chapter Activities

6 | NY/NJ/CT

THE INDIAN PANORAMA  
FRIDAY JUNE 14, 2024

18<sup>th</sup>  
YEAR

## AIA-NY honors 5 extraordinary individuals at its annual gala

US SENATE MAJORITY LEADER HON. CHUCK SCHUMER WAS THE CHIEF GUEST OF HONOR



AIA-NY President Dr. Jagdish Gupta giving his address



(From left) Mrs. Meena Gupta, Dr. Gupta, Senator Chuck Schumer, Honorees Mr. Naveen Shah, Dr. Raman Sharma, Prof. S.N. Sridhar, Dr. Vishal Kapur and Dr. Rekha Bhaduri.



Dr. Sumita Bengtula (Gala Co-chair), Assemblyman David Weprin, Dr. Raman Sharma, President Dr. Jagdish Gupta, and Chairman of Board Dr. Samin Sharma

JUNE 10, 2024

**GREAT NECK, NY (TIP):** The Association of Indians in America (AIA) NY chapter held on June 3, its Annual Gala under the leadership of Dr. Jagdish K. Gupta to raise funds for the 37th Deepavali Fest slated for October 6, 2024, and for the 'AIA-Educational Project,' to empower Indian-American students in need to achieve their educational potential and dreams.

The Gala was attended by 200 distinguished members of the community, including past presidents and members of the Advisory Board of Trustees of AIA. It was held on June 2, 2024, at the redesigned Crystal Ballroom of Leonard's Palazzo Exquisite Banquet Hall in Great Neck.

Honorable Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer was the Chief Guest of Honor. In his remarks, he highlighted his visit to India, the importance of strong India-US ties, and praised Indian leaders, culture, traditions, and the community's contributions to education and healthcare. He emphasized the strong maritime defense ties between the two countries in the Indian Ocean. He also applauded Indian physicians and parents for their commitment to education, drawing parallels with the Jewish community. His remarks received multiple rounds of applause and ended with a standing ovation.

New York State Assemblyman David Weprin from District 24 was an honored guest. He has been a staunch supporter of the AIA-NY, helping to secure Alternate Day Parking suspension on Diwali each year and advocating for Diwali as a school holiday in New York City. He expressed his pride in supporting the Indian community and emphasized the importance of cultural recognition in fostering a diverse and inclusive society.

In keeping with the theme of Women's Empowerment, Dr. Rekha Bhaduri, Chief Medical Officer for the MedElite Group/Allure Group/Vis-à-vis Health, was honored with the 'Excellence in Healthcare Award' for her innovative contributions to healthcare. In her acceptance speech, she expressed her hope to inspire women in healthcare. She stated, 'I am humbled and honored to receive this award from one of the oldest ethnic organizations. I hope my journey serves as a trailblazer for other women to follow and get inspired in the healthcare field.'

Mr. Naveen C. Shah, CEO of Navika Group of Companies and Blue-Sky Hospitality Solutions, received the 'Entrepreneur Par Excellence Award' for his success in building a multibillion-dollar conglomerate and his philanthropic efforts supporting numerous nonprofit organizations. In his speech, Mr. Shah paid tribute to all the AIA founders, past presidents, Board of Trustees, advisors, and current officers for their dedication and relentless efforts in



Vote of Thanks from the Executive Committee group actively involved with the Gala Celebrations.



Senator Bohumi and Honorees - Dr. Vishal Kapur with his family, Dr. Raman Sharma & Mrs. Clara Sharma, Mr. Naveen Shah & Mrs. Rajneesh Shah



From left) Mrs. Meena Gupta greeting Senator Bohumi, Beena Kothari - Gala Chair, AIA-NY President Dr. Jagdish Gupta, and Mr. Naveen Shah-Honoree. Photo Credit : AIA-NY

supporting Indians in America. He remarked, 'Our unity and support has been pivotal in promoting Indian culture and heritage in the USA.'

Dr. S.N. Sridhar, Distinguished Professor of Linguistics and India Studies at Stony Brook University, was recognized for 'Excellence in Literature,

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Dr. Vishal Kapur and Dr. Raman Sharma from Mount Sinai Health System were also honored. Dr. Kapur received the 'Excellence in Cardiology-Vascular & Endovascular Medicine' award, while Dr. Sharma was presented with the 'Special Young Physician Award for Excellence in Endovascular Intervention'. Dr. Kapur spoke about the advancements in endovascular treatments at Mount Sinai and the importance of innovation in patient care. Dr. Sharma highlighted the significance of his work in saving limbs from ischemia in diabetes and preventing strokes in patients with carotid artery blockages.

The evening began with a social networking hour featuring cocktails and Indian hors d'oeuvres, followed by entertainment including live performances by Ms. Tammayee Mohapatra and Ms. Jagahattula Maheshwari. Mrs. Beena Kothari, Vice President and Gala Chair, welcomed guests and introduced Dr. Jagdish Gupta, who spoke about the significance of Deepavali Celebrations and the importance of supporting educational excellence in the Indian-American community.

Dr. Samin Sharma, Chairman of the AIA Board of Trustees, highlighted the achievements of Indian Americans in healthcare and corporate America.

Citations for AIA-NY and the honorees were received from various dignitaries, including the Indian Consulate, Congressman Tom Suozzi, Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman, and New York State Senator Kevin Thomas.

Dr. Gupta thanked all the sponsors and partners, including Reportair - CheapOair, Mount Sinai Hospital, Northwell Health System, Mattoo Center for India Studies, Brooklyn Hospital Center, Navika Group of Companies, Blue-Sky Hospitality Solutions, Parker Jewish Institute, CenterLight Healthcare, and media partners.

The event concluded with a sumptuous dinner, dancing, and entertainment.

AIA is one of the oldest ethnic organizations representing the Indian community in America. It aims to promote cultural understanding, assimilation, and recognition of Indian traditions and heritage in the United States.

Contact: Dr. Jagdish K Gupta,  
email: Jagdishkgupta@gmail.com



## New York Chapter Activities

### NORTH AMERICAN Newsline

JUNE 14, 2024 | The Indian Eye 20

# AIA-NY honors five extraordinary individuals at its annual gala

*US Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer graces the occasion as Chief Guest of Honor*

#### OUR BUREAU

Great Neck, NY

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*Continued on next page... >>*



Dr. Sumita Sengupta (Gala Co-chair), Assemblyman David Weprin, Dr. Raman Sharma, President Dr. Jagdish Gupta, and Chairman of Board Dr. Samin Sharma



## New York Chapter Activities

### **NORTH AMERICAN Newsline**

JUNE 14, 2024 | **The Indian Eye** **21**

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# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



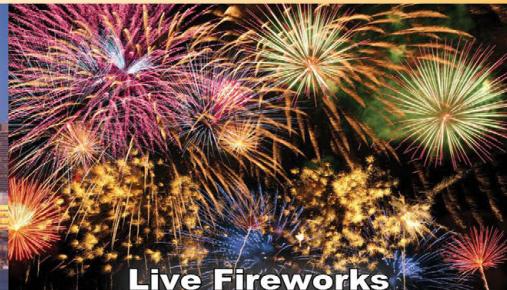
## New York Chapter Activities

37<sup>th</sup> Deepavali Celebration on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024



**THE ASSOCIATION OF INDIANS IN AMERICA**  
(New York Chapter)

# 37th Deepavali



**Sunday October 6, 2024**

Registration: 5:00 PM

Boarding at 5:30 PM

Sailing 6:00 PM Sharp to 10:00 PM

One World's Fair Marina, Flushing, NY. (Free Parking on Marina)

For all inquiries contact:

**Dr. Jagdish K. Gupta**

President - (917) 941 2886

Email: Presidentaiany2324@gmail.com

Zelle Payment to 917-941-2886 for Tickets encouraged with text/email message for attendees' names.

**Beena Kothari**  
(631) 988 1280

**Dr. Sunil Mehra**  
(516) 503 1467

Organizing Committee

**Harsh Vyas**

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# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## New York Chapter Activities

**Pictures from Annual Deepavali Celebrations on the East River(Skyline Princess Cruise Line, NY City) with 400 Persons aboard**





## **New York Chapter Activities**

हम हिंदुस्तानी,usa

Page 13

October 25-31, 2024  
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## ईस्ट रिवर पर आतिथबाजी और मनोरंगन के साथ 37वां दीपावली उत्सव मनाया

पारम्परिक भारतीय परिधानों में सजे 400 से अधिक भारतीय कम्युनिटी के लोगों एवं सम्मानित अतिथियों ने फ्लशिंग न्यूयॉर्क के वर्ल्ड फेयर मरीना से स्काई लाइन प्रिंसेस क्रूज की यात्रा करके दीपावली उत्सव को जीवंत बना दिया...



न्यूयॉर्क। हम हिन्दुस्तानी

समाजसेवा में अग्रणी एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडियर्स इन अमेरिका (ए.आई.ए.) न्यूयॉर्क के भित्र की ओर से 37वां वार्षिक उत्सव इन्स्ट रिवर पर एक कूज में हावालाल्स के साथ मनाया गया। बता दें कि पारमपरिक भारतीय परिधानों में से संज्ञे से अधिक भारतीय कपड़नीटी के लिंगों एवं सम्मानित अतिथियों ने फलशिंग न्यूयॉर्क के बल्ड फेयर मरीना से स्कॉप लाइन प्रिसेस कूज की यात्रा करके दोपावली उत्सव को जीतवा दिया। एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडियर्स इन अमेरिका न्यूयॉर्क के अध्यक्ष डा. जगदीश गुप्ता के नेतृत्व में आयोजित किया गया 37वां वार्षिक दोपावली उत्सव दौरान सभी अतिथियों एवं गण्यमान्यों ने इन्स्ट रिवर में कूज के माध्यम से मैनहट्टन डा. गुप्ता ने कहा कि मैनहट्टन, क्वार्स एवं ब्रूकलिन को जाड़ने वाले प्रतिष्ठित पुलों से संबंधित नामों पर एवं स्ट्रीट्स आंक लिखित को करीबी से देखना सम्मुख बहुत ही अद्भुत ही था और सभी ने 37वां वार्षिक आयोजनाओं प्रदर्शन का अनन्द लिया। भारतीय संगीतों की धुनों के साथ नमनोहक आतिशायजी का शो बहुत ही अद्भुत था तथा आयोजनाजी के प्रदर्शन ने सभी को मंत्रपूर्वक कर दिया। बता दें कि इस वर्ष दोपावली उत्सव का आयोजन एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडियर्स इन अमेरिका (ए.आई.ए.) न्यूयॉर्क द्वारा किया गया था, जिसका स्थापना 1965 में भारत को समृद्ध सांस्कृतिक विविषण को बढ़ावा देने के मिशन के साथ की गई थी। ताकि युवा पोढ़ी को अधिक से अधिक भारत

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 संस्कृत संस्कृतम् । अधिकारी । एस. ए. डी. एस. । अमेरिका । U.S.A.

को समझु न संस्कृति एवं विस्ते से जोड़ा जा सके और इसी के पथ पर एसोसिएशन आफ ईंडियंस इन अमेरिका (ए.आई.ए.) न्यूयॉर्क और बड़ी रहा है। क्रूज़ पर आयाजान समारोह को सम्बोधित करते हुए डा. गुला ने एसोसिएशन आफ ईंडियंस इन अमेरिका (ए.आई.ए.) न्यूयॉर्क के 6 दशकों को महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धियों पर प्रशंसा डाला, जिसमें 2005 में न्यूयॉर्क शहर में दीवाली का आधिकारिक एवं कार्यक्रम के रूप में मान्यता दिलवाना, पर्व के लिए वैकल्पिक साइड स्ट्रीट पार्किंग को समाप्त

करना, 2006 में ग्रेसी मेंशन तथा बाट में ब्लॉहाट हाइकॉम में दोबालाको का जश्न बनाना तथा 2013 में यु.एस. पी.एस. द्वारा दो बालकों पर एक रस्ते जारी करना के अलावा अन्य उल्लंघनों को बर्बाद किया और जिसके लिए उन्होंने मेरवारी एरिक एडम्स एवं असेंबलीवेंगे जैफिंसन राजकुमारों का विशेष रूप से अमेरिका प्रकट किया। बता दें कि नार्थवेल हैल्ट्य के विश्व प्रसिद्ध यूरोलाजिक सन्नाटा डॉ. लैंस कावार्सो और नार्थवेल कैंसर इंस्टीट्यूट में यूरोलाजिक और अन्कलाजिकों के प्रमुख डॉ. मनोज ए. वीराग काव्यक्रम में सम्मानित अतिथि थे। इस अवसरपत्र पर विशेष रूप से डॉ. वीरा को यूरोलाजिक और अन्कलाजिकों में उनको उत्कृष्टता के लिए प्रशस्ति पत्र देकर सम्मानित किया गया। उन्होंने सम्मान समारोह के दीरांग एसोसिएशन

ऑफ इंडियंस इन अमेरिका (ए.आई.ए.) न्यूयार्क के पदार्थकारियों का विशेष रूप से आभार प्रकट किया। यहां पर वे भी उल्लेखनीय हैं कि सनी गिल एम्प्रियोलूप ने शानदार डिपर्मेंट में महानों के लिए बालोनी के हिट नाम देखा किए। तिन सीनियर यूनियन ने खुबसूरी से कोरियोग्राफ और गरवा नृत्य प्रस्तुत किए तथा सभी ने दीवाली उत्सव का खेल लूप उत्तरायण। तब महें साप्सिसन ऑफ इंडियंस इन अमेरिका (ए.आई.ए.) न्यूयार्क चैररी की ओर से आयोजित 37वां वार्षिक दीपावली उत्सव दिलों में अमिट वार्दे छोड़ा हुआ सम्पन्न हो गया।

(ਈਥ ਪੁਲਟ 14 ਪਾਂ)



## New York Chapter Activities

हम हिंदुस्तानी, usa

Page 16

October 25-31, 2024  
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एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडियंस इन अमेरिका (ए.आई.ए.) न्यूयॉर्क चैप्टर ने दीपावली उत्सव नजाया  
**हर किसी ने की एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडियंस इन अमेरिका (ए.आई.ए.) न्यूयॉर्क के कार्यों की प्रशंसा**



भारतीय संगीत की धुनों के साथ मनमोहक आतिशबाजी  
का शो बहुत ही आकर्षक था तथा आतिशबाजी के प्रदर्शन ने  
सभी को मंत्रमुग्ध कर दिया, सभी ने 37वें वार्षिक आतिशबाजी प्रदर्शन का आनंद लिया





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## New York Chapter Activities



### South Asian Herald

*Authentic Voice of the South Asian Community in the United States*

#### AIA-New York Chapter Hosts 37th Annual Diwali Festival on the East River



Dr. Jagdish Gupta addressing the gathering at the 37th Annual Deepavali Festival on October 6, 2024, in New York. PHOTO: AIA-NY

The New York Chapter of the Association of Indians in America (AIA) hosted its 37th Annual Diwali Festival on October 6, 2024, with a lively celebration aboard a cruise on the East River.

Over 400 distinguished guests from the community, dressed in traditional Indian attire, embarked on the Skyline Princess Cruise from World Fair Marina in Flushing, NY. The stunning fall weather enhanced the festive spirit of the event.

AIA-NY President, Dr. Jagdish Gupta, stated: "Sailing down the East River, we all enjoyed breathtaking views of Manhattan's skyline, passing under iconic bridges linking Manhattan, Queens, and Brooklyn and viewing the Statue of Liberty up close."

A press statement from AIA-NY stated that anchoring on the northern side of Liberty State Park in the Atlantic Ocean, guests enjoyed AIA's spectacular 37th Annual Fireworks Display. The mesmerizing pyrotechnic show, accompanied by the sounds of Indian music on the observation deck, enchanted those on the cruise as well as spectators from the New Jersey shoreline.

This year's innovative celebration was organized by AIA-NY, founded in 1967 with the mission to promote India's rich cultural heritage while fostering these values among younger generations in America. Their motto is: "Indian Heritage, American Commitment."

In his opening remarks, Dr. Gupta highlighted AIA's significant achievements over almost six decades. These include New York City's recognition of Diwali as an official holiday in 2005, the suspension of alternate side street parking for the festival, the celebration of Diwali at Gracie Mansion and later at the White House in 2006, and the release of the Diwali 'Forever Stamp' by USPS in 2013. He also acknowledged the establishment of the Diwali holiday in NYC public schools last year, thanking Mayor Eric Adams and Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar for supporting this historic accomplishment.

Emphasizing Diwali's message of "light over darkness," "knowledge over ignorance," and "hope over despair," Dr. Gupta called on everyone to light the flame of hope, resilience, and positivity in their hearts and homes, and to remember the festival's essence of giving, sharing, and togetherness.

The celebration, post-disembarkation, began with the cocktail hour offering Indian and American beverages alongside an array of Indian hors d'oeuvres. The mood was set by the enchanting saxophone tunes of Sobars Macwan, who played melodious Bollywood music. Gala Chair Mrs. Beena Kothari, welcomed the guests, followed by Dr. Gupta's introduction of the AIA-NY leadership team and honored guests.

A special mention was made of Dr. Louis Kavoussi, a world-renowned urologic surgeon from Northwell Health, and the event's honoree, Dr. Manish A. Vira, Chief of Urologic Oncology at Northwell Cancer Institute. Dr. Vira was recognized for his excellence in urologic oncology surgery. He thanked AIA-NY for the honor and praised the organization for its contributions to the community.

The Sunny Gill Music Group performed Bollywood hits to entertain the guests during the sumptuous dinner. The Jain Senior Group presented beautifully choreographed Garba dances. Sponsors of the event include Fareportal/CheapOair/One Travel, New York Life, Mount Sinai Health System, Northwell Health System, The Brooklyn Hospital Center, and all media sponsors.



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## New York Chapter Activities

**Pictures from Scholarship of \$10,000 to 10 deserving students for \$1,000 each Student to Queensborough Community College on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

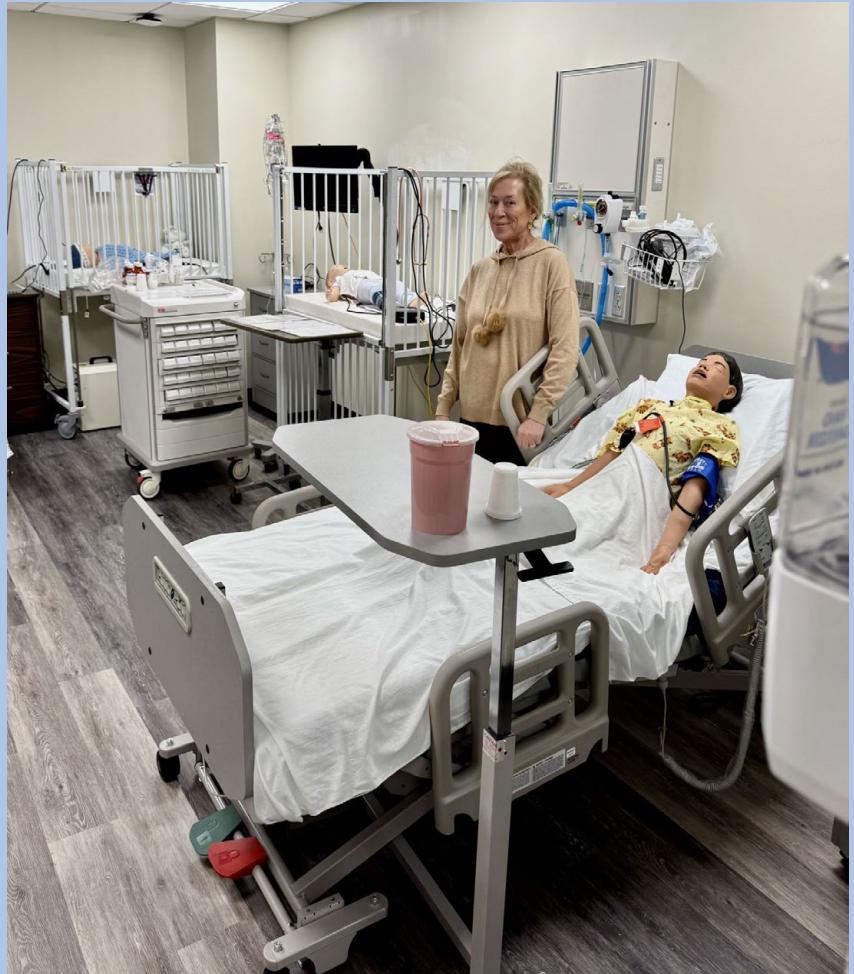




# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## New York Chapter Activities





## New York Chapter Activities

# The Indian EYE

Connecting with India and Indians around the world

### **AIA-NY Forges Cultural & Educational Links with Queensborough Community College**



*(Standing from left) Jasbir Jay Singh – Chief Editor and CEO of Hum Hindustani, Dr. Nidhi Gadura – Chairperson of Chairs of QCC and Professor, Biological Sciences & Geology, Gobind Munjal – President AIA, Dr. Christine Mangino – President of Queensborough Community College, Dr. Jagdish K. Gupta – President AIA-NY Chapter, Smiti Khanna – Advisor AIA-NY, Beena Kothari – President-Elect AIA-NY, rs. Bhavna Jee – Director Hum Hindustani, Saji Sheerazi – Director of Development, Division of Strategic Initiatives and Advancement QCC. (Sitting) Stephen Di Dio, Vice President & Chief Strategy Officer, Division of Strategic Initiatives and Advancement, Harsh Vyas – Vice President, AIA-NY at the donation ceremony. – Photo AIA-NY*

In a new direction for the Association of Indians in America (AIA) — NY Chapter, its President, Dr. Jagdish K. Gupta, recently led a high-powered delegation to meet the leadership of Queensborough Community College (QCC), a premier CUNY institution, to initiate cultural and educational collaboration.

The AIA-NY team was given a firsthand look at two of QCC's distinguished departments: Engineering & Technology, and Nursing. Inspired by the visit, AIA-NY pledged to support education at QCC by establishing a scholarship fund with an initial donation of \$10,000.

Dr Jagdish Gupta was accompanied by AIA-NY Vice President Beena Kothari, National AIA President Gobind Munjal, Past President & Advisor Smiti Khanna, Secretary Harsh Vyas, and other community leaders.

They met the QCC team led by President Dr. Christine Mangino, Prof. Nidhi Gadura (Chair of Chairs), Audrey Maroney (Director of Nursing), Prof. Michael D. Lawrence (Engineering Technology), Vice President & Chief Strategy Officer Stephen Di Dio, and Director of Development Sajedeh Sheerazi welcomed the AIA-NY delegation.

Queensborough Community College in Bayside, NY, is a top-ranked, fully accredited two-year college recognized for its exceptional success in helping low-income students advance in life. Its students come from over 110 countries and speak over 60 languages, 30% of whom are of Indian origin. Dr Gupta said that reflecting the rich diversity of Queens, QCC is an ideal partner for cultural and educational collaboration with AIA-NY.

#### **Exploring Innovation at QCC**

The AIA-NY delegation visited two QCC departments:

**Engineering & Technology Department:** The delegates were introduced to the latest advancements in 3D printing technology. Prof Michael D. Lawrence explained the department's collaborative project with Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, in which 3D models of cancerous tissues generated from MRI and CAT scan images aid surgical teams in precise cancer treatment planning.

**Nursing Department:** Established in 1967, QCC's Nursing Program is highly respected and ACEN-accredited. The delegation was impressed by its state-of-the-art simulation labs, which feature interactive mannequins representing adult patients, pregnant mothers, pediatric cases, and newborns. Audrey Maroney detailed the comprehensive nursing curriculum and showcased the Jackson & Muriel Lum Nursing Resource Lab, where students train with cutting-edge simulation computers.

#### **AIA-NY Launches Scholarship Fund for QCC**

AIA-NY has pledged to support education at QCC by establishing the 'Student Success Scholarship Fund' with an initial donation of \$10,000 (10 scholarships of \$1,000 each). These scholarships will assist students from low-income families enrolled in certificate or associate degree programs, covering tuition, course materials, and essential educational expenses.

AIA-NY's leadership proudly presented the check to QCC President Dr. Christine Mangino, reinforcing their commitment to future cultural collaborations, including the celebration of Holi this spring and Diwali later in the year.

This partnership begins a strong alliance between AIA-NY and QCC, fostering student success and cultural exchange. Both organizations look forward to working together to enrich students' academic experiences while celebrating India's vibrant heritage.

Founded in 1967, AIA has been promoting the welfare of Asian Indians and showcasing India's rich culture and traditions. Through its message of "Cultural Diversity and Social Harmony" and the bond of "Indian Heritage and American Commitment," AIA-NY has actively contributed to charitable, cultural, and educational initiatives, fostering communication and cooperation among people of Indian heritage worldwide. The annual Deepavali celebration at South Street Seaport in NY has been its flagship event.



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Illinois Chapter Activities

India 78<sup>th</sup> Independence Day on August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

AIA - ILLINOIS CHAPTER PRESENTS

# ASSOCIATION OF INDIANS IN AMERICA (EST: 1967)

# 78TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

12TH AUGUST MONDAY

AT: DALEY PLAZA,  
50 W WASHINGTON ST, CHICAGO, IL 60602



**Chief Guest**  
**MARIA PAPPAS**  
COOK COUNTY  
TREASURER



**Presided by**  
**SOMNATH GHOSH**  
CONSULATE GENERAL  
INDIA (CHICAGO)



Flag Hoisting at 11:45 am  
Cultural Program at 12:00 noon  
Refreshments at 01:00 pm



Salil Mishra  
Chairman  
C: 312-388-1952

Lucy Pandey  
President  
C: 847-913-4993

Santosh Pandey  
Vice President  
C: 773-771-7687

Hina Trivedi  
Ex - President  
C: 630-951-0012

Nilabh Dubey  
Vice President  
C: 630-670-8740



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Illinois Chapter Activities

### Pictures from India 78<sup>th</sup> Independence Day



Asian Media USA



Asian Media USA



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Illinois Chapter Activities





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Illinois Chapter Activities



### **AIA Marks India's 78th Independence Day with Celebration at Chicago's Daley Plaza**



AIA IL Chapter's 78th Independence Day celebration at Daley Plaza

CHICAGO, IL- On August 12th, 2024, the Association of Indians in America (AIA) Illinois Chapter celebrated India's Independence Day at Daley Plaza. The event was honored by the presence of Mr. T. Bhutia, Deputy Consul General of India in Chicago, and Ms. Maria Pappas, Cook County Treasurer and an advocate for community inclusivity.

The flag hoisting ceremony was conducted with great pomp and enthusiasm, attended by esteemed members of the AIA committee and the broader community. It was heartening to see many individuals of Indian descent from nearby offices and passersby join in the celebration.

The event attracted a crowd of around 150 people and featured beautiful renditions of national anthems and patriotic songs by a budding Chicago-based artist, Khushi Jain. The cultural program included classical dances by Rashika Bendekar and Kabita Dey, along with an energetic Punjabi dance performance by Madhu Arya and her team, which enlivened the atmosphere.

Ms. Pappas delivered a heartfelt message recognizing the Indian community's contributions to the USA, highlighting the organization's impact on the Chicagoland area. Mr. T.D. Bhutia, in his address, spoke about the significant role of India in fostering USA-India relations, as well as the contributions of the Indian and Indian student communities in the USA. His simple yet impactful words were greatly appreciated.

The event also featured speeches by Chairman Salil Mishra, President Lucy Pandey, and a vote of thanks by Vice President Nilabh Dubey and National Vice President Santosh Pandey. Maria Pappas was introduced by Hina Trivedi, and the event was skillfully hosted by Master of Ceremony Shabana Rehman.

Kimico Mehta's outreach to the community about the importance of voting during the event was also well-received and appreciated.



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Illinois Chapter Activities

Youth Group Dance Competition on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Association of Indians In America

Illinois Chapter (Established: 1967)

## YOUTH GROUP DANCE COMPETITION

LARGEST AND THE BEST YOUTH COMPETITION OF ILLINOIS

### Western, Classical, Fusion, Free-style

WINNERS PRIZES \$ 1500 AND MORE...

3:00 pm to 8:00 pm

TICKETS ONLINE AT  
[WWW.BUYMETICKET.COM](http://WWW.BUYMETICKET.COM)

**14TH SEPTEMBER 2024 (SATURDAY)**

Location

Al Larson Prairie Center  
201 Schaumburg Ct, Schaumburg, IL 60193

For Participation, Tickets & other Details Contact



Hina Trivedi  
C: 630-951-0012

Salil Mishra  
C: 312-388-1952

Lucy Pandey  
C: 847-913-4993

Shabana Rahman  
C: 847-496-3172

Santosh Pandey  
C: 773-771-7687

Nilabh Dubey  
C: 630-670-8740

TICKETS AT  
\$ 20 FOR VIP,  
\$ 10 FOR REGULAR  
(SNACKS INCLUDED)



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Illinois Chapter Activities

### Pictures from Youth Group Dance Competition





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Illinois Chapter Activities



### AIA Illinois' Annual Youth Dance Competition A Roaring Success



CHICAGO - For 17 years, the Association of Indians in America (AIA) Illinois Chapter has been at the forefront of promoting cultural unity through its annual youth group dance competition, and the 2024 edition was no exception. Held on September 14, 2024, at the Al Larson Prairie Center for the Arts in Schaumburg, this year's event once again showcased an impressive array of talent, cultural expression, and the unifying power of dance. This year's competition brought together 18 teams, featuring 124 dancers across a variety of traditional, contemporary, and folk styles. The auditorium was filled with the excitement of 350 enthusiastic attendees, whose cheers and applause electrified the atmosphere. The stakes were high, with teams vying for the coveted first-place prize of \$1,000, second place at \$750, and third place at \$500.

As an opportunity of heritage and expression, the evening began with an inspiring address by AIA Illinois President Lucy Pandey, who highlighted the importance of providing a platform for youth to express themselves through dance. She emphasized that this competition not only fosters creativity, teamwork and personality development but also serves as a vital connection to the rich Indian heritage. Salil Mishra, Chairman of the AIA Illinois Chapter, and well-known community leader, echoed these sentiments in his speech, stressing that the competition is about much more than winning—it is about nurturing teamwork, preserving cultural heritage, and giving young people a sense of community. The dedication behind the scenes was also acknowledged, as Lucy Pandey expressed gratitude to the core organizing team: Santosh Pandey (National Vice President), Nilabh Dubey (Vice President), Shabana Rehman (Youth Dance Coordinator), and Maliha Afreen (Secretary).

The competition featured a prestigious panel of five independent judges, each a respected figure in the world of Indian dance: Shital Dhanani, a renowned Indian dance teacher from the Chicagoland area, Jhara Das, an accomplished Odissi dancer and instructor from Naperville, Guru Vidushi Sindhu M.V. Naik, a Bharatnatyam expert pursuing her PhD in the art form, Prisha Laad, a seasoned choreographer with experience in major Indian TV productions, Dr. Kanak Mishra, a fiction writer and dance critic with deep knowledge of Indian dance traditions. Their expertise added a layer of gravitas to the event, ensuring that every performance was evaluated with the utmost care and cultural insight. The memorable performances in competition itself was a breathtaking journey through India's diverse dance traditions. Shirlzar, the reigning champions, delivered a power-packed contemporary dance performance that dazzled the judges and audience alike, winning them first place for the second consecutive year. Their innovative choreography and prop utilization left a lasting impression.

Divine Grace, a group of teenage Odissi dancers, took the stage with a mesmerizing interpretation of the Rudrashtakam, a tribute to their heritage and dance form. Their graceful movements and years of disciplined training shone through, earning them the second prize. The third prize went to a group of young women from Nalina Padam, who came together for the first time as a team. Their captivating fusion of music from across India, paired with a symbolic portrayal of war and peace, was lauded by judges for its emotional depth and creative use of lighting.

Other notable performances included:

Atharva Super Dancers, whose puppet and color-lit wing dance featured intricate costume changes and surprising dance concepts

Aan an amateur group of teen friends, who created a high-energy contemporary routine with their own music remix, making it difficult for the judges to choose.

A bold performance by the women of Art in Motion, who used shadow and costume elements to portray an inner struggle, earning praise for their originality

High energy, seamless flow and tons of delicate dance moves by Nritya Vijeta team left a very distinct mark on this year's competition.

Avishkar's Lavani team, whose traditional Maharashtrian folk dance brought the house down with its vibrant energy

NK Studio Ladies' Punjabi folk dance, which gave a fresh twist to the competition with its innovative fusion.

Divine Grace raised the importance of one-on-one conversations by use of three generations when interactions are getting limited by all-pervading social media.

Suhani's Ghoomar dance, which transported the audience to Rajasthan with its regal elegance.

In between the intense competition, the future of Indian dance was on full display as young dancers from Atharva Dance School, some as young as toddlers, performed two delightful routines. Their exuberance and coordination brought pure joy to the audience, a heartwarming reminder of the future generation of competition. As the event drew to a close, all the participants gathered on stage, a vibrant display of teamwork, creativity, and cultural pride. Each performance reflected not only technical skill but also a personal interpretation of the themes, underscoring the depth and diversity of Indian dance traditions.

The competition was made possible through generous donations and support from community members and local businesses, including Salil Mishra, Prem Mehrotra, Chris Patel, Vipul Patel, Amit Amin and many others. Felicitations were carried out by Chairman Salil Mishra, President Lucy Pandey, and other distinguished members of the AIA Leadership team. This year's event was a resounding success, leaving attendees inspired and eagerly anticipating the next chapter in this longstanding tradition.



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## South New Jersey Chapter Activities

**Pictures from 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Gandhi Art and Writing Competition on  
October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024**





## South New Jersey Chapter Activities

# New India Abroad®

NEWS

## Association of Indians in America hosts 21st Annual Gandhi Art and Writing Competition

The event featured a keynote speech by Princeton University senior Sejal Goud, who emphasized the role of youth as agents of change within their communities.



Image - Instagram/ aia\_sjchapter / Traditional Indian dance performance.



Winners of the competition. / Images - Instagram/ aia\_sjchapter

The Association of Indians in America-South Jersey Chapter (AIA-SJ) hosted the 21st Annual Gandhi Art and Writing Competition award ceremony at Princeton University on Oct 20., honouring middle and high school students for their artistic and literary contributions.

The event celebrates Gandhi's values of peace, non-violence, and harmony, encouraging youth in New Jersey to reflect on these principles through creative expression.

This year's theme was inspired by Gandhi's quote, "Violence is a weapon of the weak, non-violence that of the strong." The top winners received scholarships and recognition for their outstanding submissions.

In the Middle School Writing category, Darsh Gaur from Bridgewater-Raritan Middle School took first place, while Ashley Torres from Kearny High School won first place in the High School Writing category. In the Art category, Amalia Martinez from Belleville Middle School and Deeksha Chaganur from Somerset County Academy received top honors in their respective divisions.

Performances included traditional Indian dance by the Shishya School of Performing Arts and a vocal performance of the bhajan "Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram," presented by longtime supporter Maqsood Mamawala.

The AIA-SJ also announced the quote for next year's competition: "The day the power of love overrules the love of power, the world will know peace." The event reaffirmed AIA-SJ's commitment to nurturing young minds and promoting Gandhi's legacy.



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Madison Wisconsin Chapter Activities

**Pictures from India's Independence Day August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
At Capitol Square, Madison, Wisconsin**





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Madison Wisconsin Chapter Activities





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Madison Wisconsin Chapter Activities

**Garba & Dandiya Night October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024**



**AIA MADISON PRESENTS  
GARBA AND DANDIYA NIGHT  
OCTOBER 5TH**

**6PM - 10PM**

**GLACIER EDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
800 KIMBELL LANE, VERONA, WI

**SINGERS & DJ FROM CHICAGO**

**RAFFLES AND DOOR PRIZES**

**CONTACT**  
VIJAY SHARMA - 608.239.3869  
MUKTAK SHARMA - 608.239.1495  
SARITA SINGH - 608.512.2172  
USHA DATTA - 804.514.1524

**TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLY  
VIA QR CODE**

**FOOD AVAILABLE FOR  
PURCHASE FROM AMBER**  
DANDIA STICKS PROVIDED  
BY AIA

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# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Madison Wisconsin Chapter Activities

**Pictures from Garba & Dandiya Night October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024**





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Madison Wisconsin Chapter Activities

**Pictures from Diwali Celebrations on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
at Madison, WI**





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Madison Wisconsin Chapter Activities





## Florida Chapter Activities

### **Indian Independence Day Festival and Hosts Consular Camp on August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

AIA Florida Celebrates Indian Independence Day Festival and Hosts Consular Camp

On August 18, 2024, AIA Florida proudly hosted the annual Indian Independence Day Festival, drawing nearly 1,000 attendees from Miami, Palm Beach, and beyond to the Broward Center for Performing Arts. This vibrant celebration of India's rich culture featured a vendor area filled with Indian clothing, accessories, and local Indian-affiliated businesses, alongside an impressive art exhibit showcasing original paintings and artwork.

The festivities began with traditional dhol tasha drummers welcoming guests to the main performance hall, where a cultural showcase kicked off at 1:00 pm. The Consul General of India, along with city mayors and leaders from neighboring areas, addressed the audience with inspiring words to open the event. The crowd enjoyed patriotic dances, singing, and instrumental performances, beautifully representing India's diverse regions.

The festival also included a dedicated children's activity room, where young attendees made pinwheels, decorated diyas, and colored maps of India. And, of course, the event wouldn't be complete without a wide variety of delicious Indian food available for all to enjoy. We look forward to welcoming South Florida's community back next year for this enriching celebration of Indian culture!

Additionally, on October 6th, the AIA South Florida Chapter hosted a free Consular Camp with the Indian Consulate General, drawing over 200 attendees seeking assistance with passports, visas, and other documentation. Attendees enjoyed a mid-day break led by a yoga instructor, guiding them through breathing exercises right from their seats. The event was a success, with many participants requesting future consular camp dates.

The AIA South Florida Chapter is excited to continue hosting meaningful events and looks forward to planning our next community gathering soon!



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Florida Chapter Activities

### Pictures from Indian Independence Day Festival and Hosts Consular Camp





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Florida Chapter Activities





## California Chapter Activities

### **Organized cultural and educational programs of Indian Goddesses in collaboration with Sanskriti Legacy**

Two and half years back in August 2022, when I moved to Los Angeles, this idea of starting an AIA chapter in the west coast originated.

I (Santosh khera), past president of AIA started exploring how to go about it. In 2023, AIA supported Sanskriti Legacy in her very well organized cultural and educational program of Indian Goddesses. Most of the trained classical musicians and dancers from different organizations of Los Angeles participated. AIA got the recognition as another nationwide organization.

Then after becoming a member of the very renowned organization Newport Irvine Rotary club, thought of doing a project with them and that's how the idea of starting a Dialysis unit in Kota, Rajasthan originated. I then discussed this idea with Divya shah, my treasurer during my presidency as well as the National President Gobind Munjal and NY chapter President Dr. Jagdish Gupta.

After getting the green signal from all of them, I became instrumental in getting the global grant approved by Rotary International, for starting free dialysis services at KOTA-Rajasthan, in cooperation with Rotary club of KOTA. Process of application started. Past president of Rotary Newport Irvine Mr. Pardaman Singh Sawhney contacted Rotary Kota and helped me go through the process.

It took about a year but now on 1st of December 2024, a Dialysis unit was inaugurated by the minister in a government hospital. Write up on paper and a picture of our plaque is enclosed. Excess funds of \$21,000 which were sitting in AIA NY Chapter were donated for this project.

Now we are planning to start the chapter in April of 2025 by inviting people for picnics and trying to make them AIA members.

I have got a few prominent members of the society as my supporters.

1. Mr. Pardaman Sawhney (past president rotary)
2. Bhupinder singh Kohli (president Rotary)
3. Smita kotoor (retired neurologist)
4. Hansa Ashar (past treasurer AIA NY)

Thanks, Wish me luck in my new endeavor.

**Santosh Khera (Past President AIA NY)  
President AIA California chapter**



## California Chapter Activities

Donated \$21,000 to Rotary International to start a Dialysis Center in Kota Rajasthan



## ऊर्जा मंत्री हीरालाल नागर ने किया डायलिसिस सेंटर का शुभारंभ, समाज सेवा पर दिया जोर

### ● राजस्थान दर्शन

कोटा। ऊर्जा मंत्री हीरालाल नागर ने रविवार को रोटरी क्लब द्वारा आयोजित समारोह में 6 किडनी डायलिसिस मशीनों का शुभारंभ किया। ये मशीनें गोबरिया बावड़ी स्थित मानव सेवा समिति चिकित्सालय में स्थापित की जाएंगी। मंत्री ने समाज के सक्षम लोगों से अपील की कि वे अपनी आय का एक हिस्सा समाज में अंतिम पायदान पर खड़े व्यक्ति की सेवा में लगाएं।

समारोह में मंत्री नागर ने रोटरी क्लब के कार्यों की सराहना करते हुए कहा कि पोलियो उन्मूलन के लिए क्लब का वैश्विक अभियान प्रेरणादायक है। उन्होंने क्लब की नई पहल की प्रशंसा करते हुए इसे समाज के लिए अनुकरणीय बताया।

### 50 लाख की मशीनें और

### भविष्य की योजनाएं

रोटरी क्लब अध्यक्ष मुकेश व्यास ने बताया कि क्लब ने रोटरी अंतरराष्ट्रीय ग्रांट के माध्यम से 50 लाख रुपये की लागत से डायलिसिस मशीनें और आरओ फिल्टर प्लांट उपलब्ध कराए हैं।



निवर्तमान अध्यक्ष प्रीतम गोस्वामी ने कहा कि इन मशीनों से किडनी रोगियों को आधुनिक उपचार मिलेगा। साथ ही, थैलीसीमिया के मरीजों के लिए इलेक्ट्रोफिरोसिस मशीन स्थापित करने की योजना पर भी काम हो रहा है।

### कार्बन उत्सर्जन पर सरकार का

### फोकस

मंत्री नागर ने बताया कि राजस्थान सरकार वर्ष 2070 तक कार्बन उत्सर्जन को शून्य करने का लक्ष्य लेकर चल रही है। उन्होंने सोलर पावर प्लांट्स को अपनाने और

बिजली की दरों को कम करने की दिशा में किए जा रहे प्रयासों की जानकारी दी। विकलांग सहायता शिविर 11 दिसंबर को रोटरी क्लब कोटा ने 11-12 दिसंबर को दिव्यांगजनों के लिए निशुल्क विकलांग सहायता उपकरण वितरण शिविर आयोजित करने की भी घोषणा की। शिविर में जस्त्रतमंदों को कृत्रिम पैर, बैसाखियां, व्हीलचेयर, और सुनने की मशीनें वितरित की जाएंगी। इस कार्यक्रम ने समाज सेवा और पर्यावरण संरक्षण के प्रति जागरूकता को बढ़ावा देने का काम किया।



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA Membership Application Form



### The Association of Indians in America

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

#### Indian Heritage American Commitment

**Our Objective:** 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Cash: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) Mr \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_

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,

National Treasurer Mr. Gobind Bathija (631) 748 9333

**E-mail:** [gpmunjal@gmail.com](mailto:gpmunjal@gmail.com) **Or** [gobind.bathija@gmail.com](mailto:gobind.bathija@gmail.com)

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



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