



## BETWEEN US

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

**A Non-Profit Organization of Indians founded in 1967**

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

**VOLUME I**

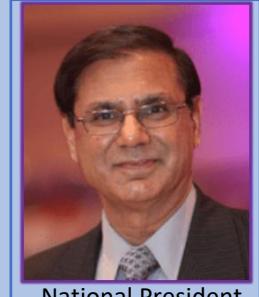
**4<sup>th</sup> EDITION**

**Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> 2025**

### ***Message from the National AIA President GOBIND MUNJAL (2022-2025)***

As I conclude my four-year term (2022–2025) as National President of AIA, I, Gobind Munjal, extend my sincere and heartfelt gratitude to the National Executive Committee (NEC), Past Presidents, Trustees, and all the distinguished members of AIA for their unwavering support throughout my four-year term (2022–2025).

My special thanks to the National Executive Committee, whose unanimous resolutions and steadfast backing enabled us to work cohesively and decisively. With your collective efforts, we successfully revitalized AIA National, strengthened its foundation, and advanced its mission. Together, we streamlined bylaws and procedures, updated the membership list, revived prestigious legacy events, launched new chapters, and initiated impactful programs in the best interest of the organization.



National President  
2022 - 2025

### **Key Achievements (2022–2025)**

- ❖ **Chapter Growth:** Revived inactive chapters and launched four new chapters in California, Minnesota, Georgia, and Texas.
- ❖ **Life Membership Rejuvenation:** Added 85 new Life Members, including 34 younger-generation members (65 members including spouses).
- ❖ **Medical Council Awards Gala (May 3, 2025):** Restarted after 15 years at Cipriani 42nd St, NYC, honoring second-generation physicians; 50% attendance from the younger generation.
- ❖ **Honor Banquet & Celebrations of 75th Anniversary of India's Independence (May 6, 2023):** Successfully held at Terrace on the Park, NYC, attended by dignitaries including Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and NYC Mayor Eric Adams.
- ❖ **Bylaws Amendment:** Amended and Updated AIA National Bylaws after 30 years, implemented in January 2024, under the leadership of Mr. Santosh Pandey from Chicago, assisted by various Past Presidents and representatives from across the country.
- ❖ **AIA National Newsletter – “BETWEEN US”:** Revived after 20+ years to strengthen communication among members.



- ❖ **Life Membership Fund Investment: Achieved 55% portfolio growth** during 2024–2025; earned income distributed to chapters for the first time in over two decades. Thanks to Investment committee led by Mr. Rohit Vyas assisted by Past Presidents and distinguished members.
- ❖ **First-Ever Diwali at Minnesota State Capitol (2023):** Initiated under the leadership of Mr. Gopal Khanna assisted by Ms Vallabha Tantry. A tradition now continued annually.
- ❖ **Educational Initiatives:** Organized a successful multi-session Zoom conference on Awareness and Empathy (2022).
- ❖ **Digitization of Archives:** Preserved historic albums of past national presidents.
- ❖ **Life Membership List Update:** Finalized, corrected and updated the Life Membership list during 2024 for transparency and election integrity.
- ❖ **Enhanced Chapter Communication:** Improved interaction and collaboration among chapters.
- ❖ **Community Engagement:**
  - Welcome Partner at PM Narendra Modi's Reception (Nassau Coliseum, Sept 22, 2024)
  - Collaboration with NIAASC for senior welfare at its 35th Annual Conference
  - First-ever AIA Float in FIA India Day Parade (Aug 17, 2025), receiving extensive media coverage about AIA chapters and change of venue for AIA-NY iconic Diwali celebration.
- ❖ **\$35,000 Charitable Donation for Needy Seniors:**

A net surplus of \$35,000 from the Medical Council Awards Gala in 2025 and Honor Banquet & 75<sup>th</sup> India's Independence Celebrations in 2023 has been dedicated to supporting needy South Asian seniors. AIA will be soon launching a Senior Center in Long Island in collaboration with India Home, a respected nonprofit led by Dr. Vasundhara Kalaspudi (Dr K), which currently operates six senior centers in Queens.

We prioritized maximizing savings to support our charitable work, carefully conserving every dollar. As a result, we never charged travel and other expenses for visits to various chapters, including recent travel to Chicago for the AIA Illinois Gala on Nov 9, 2025. Additionally, no lunch or dinner expenses for official meetings have been charged to AIA over the past 4 years.

I once again thank each and every AIA member for electing me and entrusting me with the privilege of serving as National President of our esteemed organization for consecutive four years. It has been an honor to work with all of you and to help lead AIA to greater heights.

Wishing everyone a very Happy, Healthy and a Prosperous New Year!

Gobind Munjal;  
National President AIA



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA NEWSLETTER HISTORY

AIA's newsletter started in the early 1970's. It was called ("**The Journal**"). It ceased publication around 1978. It was revived in 1994 with Dr. Vinod Bansal in Chicago as editor and renamed ("**BETWEEN US**"). 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 ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Minority Status to Asian Indian Immigrants in 1970's
2. Separate Enumeration of Asian Indians for the first time in US censuses an independent category in 1980
3. Representation before Congressional committees to testify for family reunification provision in the immigration bill.
4. Relief work for Natural Disaster in India and across the World.
5. "Project India" an ongoing project of AIA, has channeled Medical Equipment and Funds for Projects and HIV relief work in India.
6. Sushruta and charka Award – Instituted in 1993 to recognize and honor people of Indian origin in the field of Medicine and Health care.
7. Deepavali celebration for public: New York City: at South Street Seaport an ongoing event, since 1987, enjoyed by close to More than 100,000 people in tri state residents.
8. **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 Schools with the help from Assemblywoman Jennifer Rajkumar, Mayor Eric Adams and Others.
16. Diwali is now celebrated in City Hall, Mayor's residence Gracie Mansion, All County offices and even some of the State Capitals. Recently through the efforts of AIA, First Ever Diwali was celebrated by the Minnesota State Governor at the Minnesota State Capitol.
17. On May 3, 2025, AIA celebrated the achievements of the next generation of Physicians and Surgeons, who excelled in the medical field, in a sold out Medical Council Awards Gala at CIPRIANI 42<sup>nd</sup> St. in Manhattan. This Medical Council Awards Gala led by younger generation was hugely successful, as for the first time 50% of attendees were from the next generation.
18. AIA is planning to launch a Senior Center in Long Island for the needy seniors in collaboration with India Home, a respected nonprofit led by Dr. Vasundhara Kalaspudi (Dr K), which currently operates six senior centers in Queens. Money has been set aside for this purpose.



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



INSIDE

## AIA National Activities

- ❖ AIA Medical Council Awards Gala held on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 at a beautiful Venue CIPRIANI, 42<sup>nd</sup> St., Manhattan, NY
- ❖ AIA National Float in FIA (India Independence Day) Parade on August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 on Madison Avenue in Manhattan, NY

## AIA Activities

- ❖ AIA Project India Fundraising function on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- ❖ AIA Desi Next - Raas Garba on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025
- ❖ AIA Diwali Celebration held 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row at the Minnesota State Capitol on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025

## New York Chapter Activities

- ❖ Oath Taking Ceremony of President of AIA-NY Chapter Beena Kothari and the Executive Committee held on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- ❖ Fundraising Gala at Pearl Banquet in Long Island held on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025
- ❖ AIA-NY hosted its first-ever Holi celebration in collaboration with Queensborough Community College (CUNY) on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- ❖ AIA-NY strengthens educational ties with QCC through scholarships and cultural exchange
- ❖ Diwali Celebration at Westbury Middle School for the 1st time on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025
- ❖ AIA-NY Deepavali Celebrations at the Overlook Beach in Long Island, on October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## INSIDE

### Illinois Chapter Activities

- ❖ Business Networking & Gala Night on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- ❖ India's Independence Day Celebrations held on August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at National India Hub

### New Jersey Chapter Activities

- ❖ AIA NJ donated care packages to Elijah's Promise soup kitchen in New Brunswick NJ in December for Christmas

### South New Jersey Activities

- ❖ Gandhi Art & Writing celebration held at Princeton University on Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### Madison Wisconsin Chapter Activities

- ❖ Diwali Celebrations on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- ❖ Sewa Diwali Drive 2025 - Food Pantry Donation
- ❖ India Day 2025 Celebration on August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- ❖ Garba and Dandiya Night Celebration on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- ❖ AIA Hindi Classes fundraising to AHA Temple donated Jagannath Yatra June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- ❖ AIA Senior Club New Year's Party 2025
- ❖ AIA Picnic held on July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### Florida Chapter Activities

- ❖ India's Independence Day Celebration on August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025



# 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	Shashank Tewari, MD	Jagat Narula, MD
Dattatreyu Nori, MD	Vijay Mattoo, MD	Ravi Bhooplapur
Neeraj Agrawal, MBA	Prem Bhandari	Naveen Shah
Urmilesh Arya, MD	Suresh Gupta, MD	Bharat Barai, MD

### Past National Presidents

Urmilesh Arya MD	Nirmal K. Mattoo MD	Surendra K. Saxena
Shashi Shah MD	Narinder M. Kukar MD	Dattatrey G. Lanjewar
Ghanshyam Pandey PhD	H.V. Janardhan MD	Manoranjan Dutta
Animesh Goenka	Jatinder P. Shah MD	Tapas Sen
Buddhadev N. Manvar MD	Roshan L. Chadda	
Piyush Agarwal PhD		

### Members at Large

Anita Thakkar NY	Neelam Modi NY	Salil Misra IL
Aridaman Jain NJ	Om Dhingra IL	Santosh Khera CA
Beena Kothari NY	Prem Mehrotra IL	Satish Anand MD NY
Indu Gajwani NY	Rajeev Chaudhary NY	Sharmistha Dutta FL
Jasbir (Jay) Singh NY	Ram Tirumala NJ	Shashi Malik NY
Manoranjan Mishra IL	Ramola Motwani FL	Sujata Seth NY
Mohinder Singh Taneja NY	Roopam Jain NJ	Uma Eniasivam FL
		Usha Bansal NY

### Chapter Presidents

Beena Kothari NY	Alefiya Ghariali FL
Lucy Pandey IL	Usha Kumar MD
Ram Tirumala NJ	Vijay Sharma WI
Arshi Duffley SNJ	Santosh Khera CA

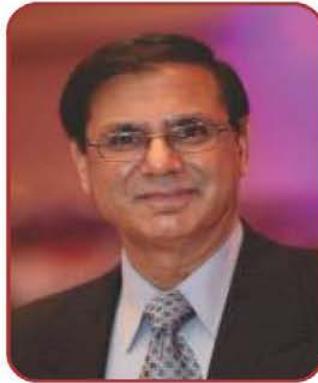


# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



THE ASSOCIATION OF INDIANS IN AMERICA

## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS



**Gobind Munjal**

President



**Dr. YashPal Arya**  
Vice President NY



**Sushma Kotahwala**  
Vice President NY



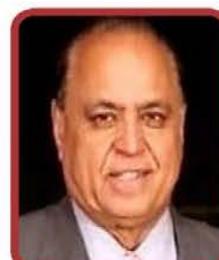
**Santosh Pandey**  
Vice President - IL



**Uma Swaminathan**  
Vice President NJ



**Gunjan Rastogi**  
Secretary



**Gobind Bathija**  
Treasurer



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



THE ASSOCIATION OF INDIANS IN AMERICA

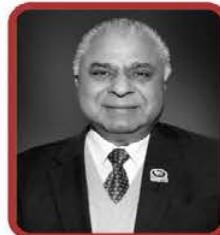
## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AT LARGE



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



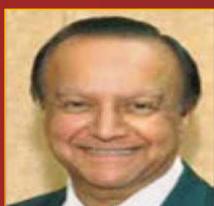
Pratichi Goenka, MD  
Medical Council  
Vice Chair



Santosh Pandey  
Chairperson of  
ByLaws Committee



Beena Kothari  
Chairperson of  
Brochure Committee



Rohit Vyas  
Chairperson of the Investment  
Advisory Committee

## Chapter Presidents



Beena Kothari  
President NY Chapter



Lucy Pandey  
President IL Chapter



Alfeya Ghadiali  
President FL Chapter



Ram Trimula  
President NJ Chapter



Arshi Duffley  
President SNJ Chapter



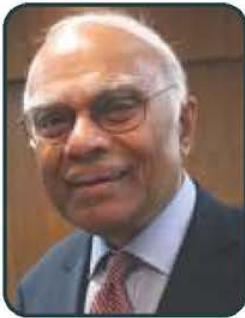
Vijay Sharma  
President Wisconsin Chapter



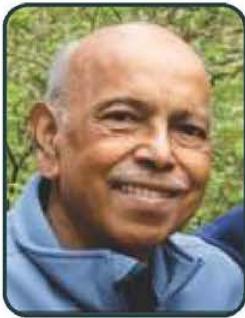
# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## NATIONAL PRESIDENTS AIA



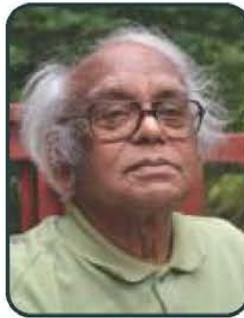
**TAPAS SEN Ph.D**  
(1967-1970)



**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)



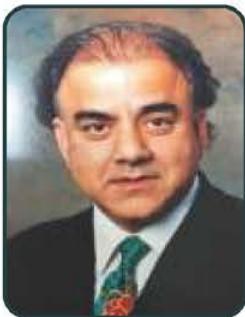
**JITENDRA P. SHAH M.D.**  
(1986-1989)



**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)



**BUDDDHADEV 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)  
Medical Council Awards on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025**



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

**SATURDAY MAY 3rd, 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



### THE ASSOCIATION OF INDIANS IN AMERICA

Gobind Munjal  
**National President**

#### Vice Presidents

Sushma Kotahwala  
Uma Swaminathan

Santosh Pandey  
Yashpal Arya MD

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Gunjan Rastogi

**Treasurer**  
Gobind Bathija

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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  
Dattatreyyudu 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

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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 (Late)  
Dattatreyy G. Lanjewar (Late)  
Manoranjan Dutta (Late)  
Tapas Sen (Late)

#### 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

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Arshi Duffley SNJ

Alefiya Ghariali FL  
Usha Kumar MD  
Vijay Sharma WI  
Santosh Khera CA



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA National Activities



### THE ASSOCIATION OF INDIANS IN AMERICA

#### AIA Medical Council

##### Honorees



Deepak L. Bhatt MD, MPH, MBA, FACC, FAHA, FESC, MSCAI, 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. Chetan 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, most notably being 'Why Buddha Never Had Alzheimer's.'





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA National Activities



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

#### **AIA Medical Council Honorees**

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

**1993**

**KUL D. 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

**Pictures from AIA Medical Council Awards Gala held on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 at a beautiful Venue CIPRIANI, 42<sup>nd</sup> St., Manhattan, NY**

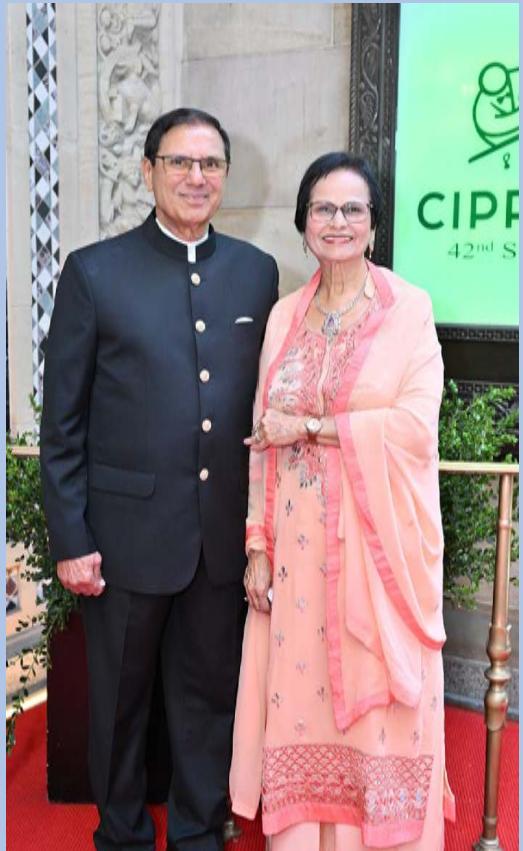




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## AIA National Activities

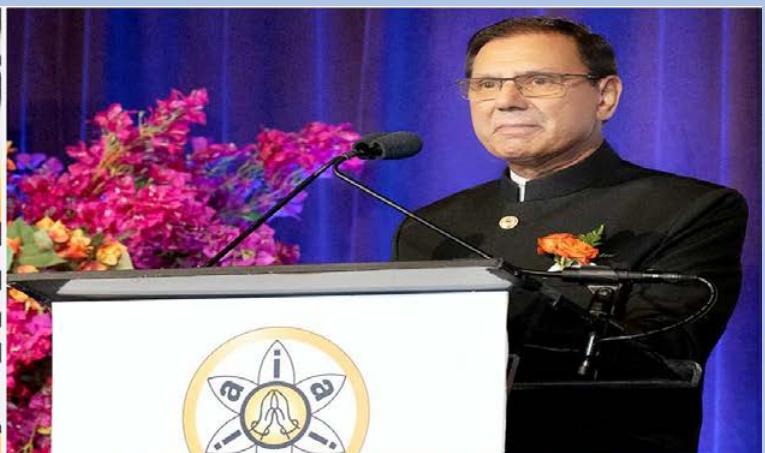




# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA National Activities





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## AIA National Activities





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA National Activities





## AIA National Activities

14 May 17-23, 2025

AIA AWARDS GALA

*TheSouthAsianTimes.info*

# AIA honors next generation of physicians, surgeons of Indian descent

**New York City:** The Association of Indians in America (AIA) Medical Council Awards Gala, revived after a gap of 15 years, was held on May 3 at the iconic Cipriani 42nd Street, an Italian Renaissance-inspired masterpiece with marble columns, soaring ceilings, inlaid floors, and spectacular chandeliers, which make it a unique and special event space.

An ultimate experience in beauty and elegance, AIA could not have found a better place in New York for its historic event. According to AIA President Gobind Munjal, who has led AIA for more than three years, the purpose of organizing this Medical Council Awards Gala was to recognize and honor the next generation of Physicians and Surgeons of Indian descent who have excelled in their careers, academics, and profession.

Pointing to the unique feature of this gala, Munjal said: "This AIA Medical Council Awards Gala is of major historical importance, as younger members of AIA are taking leadership roles and organizing this event, while we, the senior members, are supporting them. You will be glad to know that 50 per cent of the people attending this Gala were from the next generation. This will make young professionals interested in taking leadership roles, thereby expanding its membership and longevity of the organization".

He added that the Medical Council Gala's tremendous success has excited a lot of next-generation people, who have expressed interest in getting involved and becoming members. Stating that similar Galas will be held every two years or so, Munjal emphasized that the future plan is to involve and take in the next generation of people as members and prepare them to take over and lead the organization.

"For that purpose, we are starting to revamp our website to suit their requirements. The AIA is growing with new members and more active participation by the next generation. Since the times have changed, so have the needs of the Indian Community. The present leadership of AIA is actively pursuing the next generation's participation to address those changing needs. We are extremely excited that the younger members of AIA are now taking on leadership roles and have worked tirelessly to make this Medical Council Awards Celebrations a sold-out event," Munjal said.

He thanked the medical council chair, Dr Dolly Manvar, and all four vice chairs of the next generation - Dr Atul Kukar, Dr Pallavi Manvar Singh, Dr Aprajita Mattoo, and Dr



(Left to right) AIA Medical Council Vice Chair Dr Atul Kukar, Honoree Dr Deepak Bhatt, Medical Council Chair Dr Dolly Manvar, Honoree Dr Shuvendu Sen, Honoree Dr Chetan Sathy, Honoree Dr Latha Chandran, National President Gobind Munjal, past National President Dr Buddhadev Manvar, and Medical Council Vice Chairs, Dr Pallavi Manvar Singh, Dr Pratichi Goenka, and Dr Aprajita Mattoo.

Pratichi Goenka, for their commitment and hard work in making this Medical Council Awards Gala a huge success.

With the banquet room packed to capacity, the guests, young and old, dressed in their best, conversed and interacted, with DJ Kucha's music adding to the excitement. He regaled the audience with the choicest musical compositions while the guests set ablaze the dance floor with their ecstatic movements.

Munjal welcomed and thanked everyone for their presence to celebrate the occasion, honoring some of the finest representatives from the Indian American community.

Chair Board of Trustees, Dr Samin Sharma, remarked that in his past 15 years of association with the AIA, this Gala is the best he has ever seen. He also said that for the first time we have seen in any organization, so many people from the younger generation attending the Gala, which is remarkable. He mentioned that AIA needs to pick a charity through which the donations can be channeled in order to reach the needy people in India. He said he has set aside an amount of \$100,000 towards this cause.

Munjal welcomed and thanked everyone for their presence, honoring some of the finest representatives of the Indian-American

community. "They are role models for everyone and an exceptional source of pride and joy for the Indian American Diaspora worldwide", he said.

The AIA Medical Council honorees came from diverse backgrounds with unique qualities. They were Dr Deepak L Bhatt, a researcher, Dr Latha Chandran, an educator, Dr Chethan Sathy, involved with public health and education, and Dr Shuvendu Sen, an author who has many books to his credit.

Dr Nirmal Mattoo, Past National President of the AIA, was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award. He has also been a

past Chairman Board of Trustees of AIA and co-editor of the book: 'Ananya, A Portrait of India', published by AIA. He is also the Chairman of the Indo-American Arts Council and the President of the Mattoo Center of India Studies at the State University of New York.

### About AIA and its efforts

Founded in 1967, the AIA is the oldest non-profit national organization. At that time, the vision and the purpose of AIA were to help unite, support, and preserve the rights of the small number of Indian immigrants who came to America (currently



Speakers at the Gala included Chair, AIA Board of Trustees, Dr Samin Sharma (top left), AIA National President Gobind Munjal (top right), Medical Council Chair Dr Dolly Manvar (bottom right) and Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient and past National President Dr Nirmal Mattoo (bottom left).

(Left to right) President Gobind Munjal, Honoree Dr Deepak Bhatt, and past National President Dr Buddhadev Manvar.



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA National Activities

TheSouthAsianTimes.info

AIA AWARDS GALA

May 17-23, 2025

15



(Left to right) Vice Chair Dr Pallavi Manvar-Singh and Gala Chair Dr Dolly Manvar with Honoree Dr Latha Chandran.



(Left to right) Chair Board of Trustees, Dr Samin Sharma, Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Dr Nirmal Mattoo, Tina Mattoo, and President Gobind Munjal.



(Left to right) President Gobind Munjal, Honoree Dr Chethan Sathy, and Introducer Dr Jose Prince.

over 4.8 million), and assist them in their transition into American culture while preserving their Indian heritage. The motto of AIA is: INDIAN HERITAGE, AMERICAN COMMITMENT.

It was through the efforts of AIA that Indians were enumerated as a separate and distinct category in the US Census in 1980. The first-ever public event of the "Diwali" celebration, organized by AIA, took place at the Iconic South Street Seaport in New York City in 1987 and has continued since then.

In October 2003, Diwali, at the behest of AIA, was started and celebrated in the White House. Now, the festival is recognized as a holiday in New York and many

other states. AIA initiated the Hon or Banquet in 1973, followed by Medical Council Awards in 1974. Many of their honorees included Nobel laureates, leading artists, physicians, and academicians.

A unique program called Project India was initiated in 1973. The Association raised more than 15 million dollars in funds for disbursements for medical equipment during the Midwest floods in 1993, the Florida floods in the USA, the Latur earthquake in Maharashtra in 1993, and the 2004 Tsunami in India. The Project India also includes AIDS prevention and treatment, and has been going on for more than 50 years.

In 1997, on the occasion of

**It was through the efforts of AIA that Indians were enumerated as a separate and distinct category in the US Census in 1980. The first-ever public event of the "Diwali" celebration, organized by AIA, took place at the Iconic South Street Seaport in New York City in 1987 and has continued since then.**

the 50th Anniversary of India's Independence, the AIA published an academic and culturally rich book, in association with India Study Center of Stony Brook University, titled "Ananya: A Portrait of India", which received critical and popular acclaim. In 2018, the organization celebrated its 50th anniversary in New York at a Gala Dinner in the Garden City Hotel.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Association contributed hundreds of Oxygenators to different hospitals in India across the country and renovated and built two schools in Kerala and Rajasthan, India. On May 6, 2023, AIA celebrated the 75th anniversary of India's Independence in Flushing Meadows, New York, attended by dignitaries like Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and NYC Mayor Eric Adams.

Going further, the Association plans many more projects, and with the arrival on the scene of the young next generation, hopes to not only maximize the number of projects but also increase funding, quality, and diversity.



The banquet room was packed to capacity with guests, young and old, dressed in their best.  
(All photos courtesy: Association of Indians in America)



## AIA National Activities

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NY/NJ/CT

FRIDAY MAY 16, 2025

The INDIAN PANORAMA  
EVER TRUTHFUL

### AIA Awards recognize and honor the younger generation of Physicians and Surgeons of Indian descent



They addressed the gathering. From Left to Right: Chair Board of Trustees Dr Samin Sharma, National President Gobind Munjal, Lifetime Achievement Awardee and Past National President Dr Nirmal Mattoo, and Gala Chair Dr Dolly Manvar

MAY 3, 2025

**NEW YORK CITY:** The Association of Indians in America (AIA) Medical Council Awards Gala, revived after a gap of 15 years, was held on May 3rd at the iconic Cipriani 42nd Street, an Italian Renaissance-inspired masterpiece with marble columns, soaring ceilings, inlaid floors, and spectacular chandeliers which make it a unique and special event space. An ultimate experience in beauty and elegance, AIA could not have found a better place in New York for its historic event.

The purpose of organizing this Medical Council Awards Gala. According to AIA National President Gobind Munjal who has led AIA for the last more than 3 years, is to recognize and honor the second generation of Physicians and Surgeons of Indian descent, who have excelled in their career, academics and profession, as the first generation has already made a mark and earned their recognition".



National President Gobind Munjal presenting the Award to Honorees along with the Introducer.  
From Left to Right: Dr Deepak Bhatt, Dr Shuvendu Sen, Dr Chethan Sathy, Dr Latha Chandran

**Mr. Munjal, pointing to the unique feature of this gala, said:**

"This AIA Medical Council Awards Gala is of major historical importance, as younger members of AIA are taking leadership roles and organizing this event, while we, the senior members, are supporting them. You will be glad to know that 50% of the people attending this Gala were from the younger generation. This will make young professionals interested in taking leadership roles, thereby expanding its membership and longevity of the organization".

**Mr. Munjal continued:**

"This Medical Council Gala's tremendous success has excited a lot of next generation people and they have expressed interest in getting involved and becoming members. We will be having these Galas every 2 years or so. Our major future plan is to make these next generation people as members and get them involved and slowly prepare them to take over and start leading the organization. For that purpose, we are starting to revamp our website to suit their requirements.



Honorees with National President and Medical Council Chair and 4 Vice Chairs.  
From Left to Right: Gala Vice Chair Dr Atul Kukar, Honoree Dr Deepak Bhatt, Gala Chair Dr Dolly Manvar, Honoree Dr Shuvendu Sen, Honoree Dr Chethan Sathy, Honoree Dr Latha Chandran, President Gobind Munjal, Past National President Dr Buddhadev Manvar, and Gala Vice Chairs; Dr Pallavi Manvar-Singh, Dr Pratichi Goenka, Dr Aprajita Mattoo

AIA (The Association of Indians in America) is growing with new members and more active participation by the next generation. Since the times have changed, so are the needs of the Indian Community. The present leadership of AIA is actively pursuing the next generation's participation in order to address those changing needs. We are extremely excited that the younger members of AIA are now taking the leadership roles and have worked tirelessly to make this Medical Council Awards Celebrations a sold-out event.



Lifetime Achievement Award presented to Past National President Dr Nirmal Mattoo.  
From Left to Right: Gala Chair Dr Dolly Manvar, Chair Board of Trustees Dr Samin Sharma, Lifetime Achievement Awardee Dr Nirmal Mattoo, Mrs Tina Mattoo, National President Gobind Munjal

"I would like to thank the medical council chair Dr Dolly Manvar and all the 4 vice chairs of next generation; Dr Atul Kukar, Dr Pallavi Manvar Singh, Dr Aprajita Mattoo and Dr Pratichi Goenka for their commitment and hard work in making this Medical Council Awards Gala a huge success."

With the banquet room full to capacity, the guests, young and old, dressed in their best, conversed and interacted, with the DJ Kucha music magic filling the air: There was excitement, and an enjoyable feeling of comfort, too.

Chair Board of Trustees Dr Samin Sharma in his remarks, said that in his past 15 years of association with AIA, this Gala is the best he has ever seen. He also remarked that for the first time we have seen in any organization so many people from the younger generation attending the Gala, which is remarkable. He mentioned that AIA needs to pick a charity, through which the donations can be channeled in order to reach to the needy people in India. He said he has set aside an amount of \$100,000 towards this cause.

Then came the time to celebrate honorees and a word from Mr. Gobind Munjal, the President of the AIA.

Mr. Munjal welcomed and thanked everyone for their presence to celebrate the occasion, honoring some of the finest representatives of Indo-American community. "They are role models for everyone and an exceptional source of pride and joy for the Indian American Diaspora worldwide", said Mr. Munjal.

AIA Medical Council Honorees included Dr. Deepak Bhatt, Dr. Latha

CONT'D ON PAGE 7



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA National Activities

The INDIAN PANORAMA  
EVER TRUTHFUL

NY/NJ/CT  
FRIDAY MAY 16, 2025

12<sup>th</sup>  
YEAR

| 7

CONT'D FROM PAGE 6



Honorees with National President Gobind Munjal and Gala Chair Dr Dolly Manvar  
L to R: Gala Chair Dr Dolly Manvar, Honorees; Dr. Deepak Bhatt, Dr. Shuvendu Sen, Dr. Chethan Sathy, Dr. Latha Chandran, and President Gobind Munjal

Chandran, Dr. Chethan Sathy, and Dr. Shuvendu Sen. Each Honoree had their own unique quality and from diverse background. Dr Deepak Bhatt is a researcher; Dr Latha Chandran is an Educator; Dr Chethan Sathy is into Public Health and Gun



National President Gobind Munjal with Past National Presidents and Advisors.  
From L to R: National President Gobind Munjal, Past National Presidents; Dr. Nirmal Mattoo, Dr. Narinder M. Kukar, and Dr. Buddhadev Manvar

Violence Prevention and Dr Shuvendu Sen is an Author and has written books of acclaim.

Dr. Nirmal Mattoo, Past National President of the AIA was honored with Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr Mattoo has also been a past Chairman Board of Trustees of AIA and Co Editor of the book Ananya, A Portrait of India published by AIA. Dr. Mattoo is the Chairman of the Indo American Arts Council. He is also the President of the Mattoo Center of India Studies at State University of New York. It is our honor to present the lifetime achievement award to Dr Nirmal Mattoo.

DJ Kucha regaled the audience with the choicest musical compositions while the guests set ablaze the dance floor with their ecstatic movements.

### ABOUT AIA

Association of Indians in America (AIA) is the oldest non-profit national organization founded in 1967. At that time, the vision and the purpose of AIA was to help unite, support and preserve rights of the small number of Indian immigrants that came to America (currently over 4.8 million), and assisting them in their transition into American culture while preserving their Indian heritage.

Our motto is: INDIAN HERITAGE, AMERICAN COMMITMENT



Medical Council Committee:  
From L to R: Gala Vice Chair Pratichi Goenka, VC Dr Atul Kukar, National President Gobind Munjal, VC Dr. Pallavi Manvar-Singh, Gala Chair Dr Dolly Manvar, and VC Dr. Aparajita Mattoo.



Section of the gathering at the Medical Council Awards Gala

### IT WAS THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF AIA THAT

- Indians were enumerated as a separate and distinct category in the US Census in 1980.
- The First ever Public event of "Diwali" Celebration organized by AIA took place at the Iconic South Street Seaport in New York City in 1987, and has continued since then.
- In October 2003, Diwali at the behest of AIA was started and celebrated in the white House.
- Now Diwali is recognized as a holiday in New York and many other States.
- AIA initiated Honor Banquet in 1973 followed by Medical Council Awards in 1974. Many of our honorees included Nobel Laureates, Leading artists; Physicians and academicians.
- A unique program called Project India was initiated in 1973. The Association raised more than 15 million dollars fund for disbursements for medical equipment, Midwest floods in 1993 and Florida floods in USA, Latur Earthquake Maharashtra 1993 & Tsunami 2004 in India.
- AIDS prevention and treatment; Project India is an ongoing activity for more than 50 years.



Dance Floor is set aflame with the ecstatic moves of the dancers and the exciting DJ Kucha music.

- In the Year 1997, on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of India's Independence, Association of Indians in America (AIA) published an academic, culturally rich, and scholarly written book, in association with India Study Center of Stony Brook University titled "Ananya: A Portrait of India" which has received critical and popular acclaim.
- In 2018, AIA celebrated its 50th Anniversary in New York at a Gala Dinner in Garden City Hotel.
- During Covid 2020-2022, Association contributed hundreds of Oxygenators to different hospitals in India across the country and renovated and built 2 schools in Kerala and Rajasthan, India.
- 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
- The above are a few of the initiatives and achievements of the AIA. The Association is planning many more projects, and with the arrival on the scene of our next generation, it is hoped to not only maximize the number of projects but also increase their funding, quality and diversity.



## दि एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडियंस इन अमेरिका की ओर से **15 वर्ष के अंतराल उपरांत मैटीकल कौसिल अवार्ड गाला का भव्य आयोजन**

बोर्ड ऑफ ट्रस्टीज के अध्यक्ष डा. समीन शर्मा ने सम्बोधिता करते हुए कहा कि ए.आई.ए. के साथ गत 15 वर्ष के जुड़ाव में यह गाला अब तक का सबसे अच्छा आयोजन है। उन्होंने उल्लेख किया कि ए.आई.ए. को एक वैरिटी चुनने की जरूरत है, जिसके माध्यम से भारत में जरूरतमंद लोगों तक पहुंचने के लिए दान को दैनन्दिन किया जा सके।



मैडीकल कौंसिल गाला के दौरान सम्बोधित करते हुए वाइस चेयर एवं एम.सी. डा. अतुल कुक्कड़ एवं अन्य प्रवक्ता।



दि एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडियंस इन अमेरिका की ओर से आयोजित मैटीकल कॉन्सिल गाला का शुभारंभ भारत एवं अमेरिका के राष्ट्रीय गान से करते हुए माया कौल एवं गीता संतुष्टि।



सम्मानित शख्स्यतों के साथ ए.आई.ए. के अध्यक्ष गोबिन्द मुंजाल।



मैटीकल कौसिल गाला के दौरान सम्मानित डा. लता चंद्रन (2) सम्मानित डा. दीपक भट्ट (3) सम्मानित डा. शुर्वेंदु सेन (4) गाल के दौरान दम्पति दिलकश अंदाज में।

न्यायांक। हम हिन्दुस्तानी

15 वर्ष के लिये अंतराल के उपरान्त दि एसोसिएशन अंक इंडियन इन अमेरिकां को अंग और मैटोकॉन की कमिशन अंगता का अधोवान प्रतिष्ठित विपरियानी 42-स्टूट में किया गया। यहां की सुदूरता एवं अद्भुत समग्र में मैटोकॉन की कमिशन अंगता को चार-चार लगा दिया। बात दि के लिये वार्षिक दिवाली इंडियन इन अमेरिका के अध्ययन गोविन्द मंजूला के नेतृत्व में किया गया था। जिसमें भारतीय मूल के विकल्पों एवं संज्ञाएं पर भारी समझ में भाग दिया। इस अध्ययन अंगता पर मंच की अध्यक्षता करते हुए पीर मंजूला ने कहा कि दि एसोसिएशन अंक इंडियन इन अमेरिका द्वारा आयोजित वार्षिक गता का मुख्य दिव्यें उन भारतीय मूल के विकल्पों पर संज्ञाएं का सम्पन्न करना है, जिन्हें अपने विकासी शेषों के करिएर में न समाप्त हो किया जाए। इसके अंतर्गत दि एसोसिएशन अंक मैटोकॉन की ओर इसका करते हुए कहा कि यह ए.आई.ए. मैटोकॉन का अध्ययन मैटोकॉन एसोसिएशन की रूप से महत्वपूर्ण है क्योंकि ए.आई.ए. के युवा मस्टर्स नेटवर्क को प्रभान्ते होने वाले और इस कायाक्रांति का अध्योपाय कर रहे हैं जबकि इस विद्यालय मस्टर्स उक्त कायाक्रांति कर रहे हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि अपार्क वह जानकर खुशी मार्ग परिश्रमारोही में भाग लेने वाले 50 प्रतिशत लोग युवा पीरीजी से हैं। इससे युवा पीरीजों को नेटवर्क और विनाशक निपाहने में दिलचस्पी और अपनी हांगी और संगठन को मजबूती मिलती। प्रीर मंजूला ने कहा कि इस मैटोकॉन की कमिशन गता को जबड़वास सफलता में आयी पोंदी के बहुत से लोगों को उत्साहित किया है और उन्होंने संगठन में सामिल होने और मस्टर्स बैच को लिया जबकि अपने करिएर में कोई विकासी शेषों के करिएर में

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म उनका प्रतिवर्द्धता आर कड़ा मन नहीं कर लेता। अभार प्रकट करता है। इसके उपराने खोड़ और अंगूष्ठ स्ट्रीट के अंदर है। समीन शर्मा ने अफ़्रीकी दृष्टि से अपने लिए अपनी विश्वासीता करते हुए कहा कि ए. आई. ए. के दृष्टि से वह बड़ा लोटा बदलने एक शाकिहान है जबकि वह जाली दृष्टि से वहाँ परिवर्तन करने वाली है। चेतना मध्यमा परिवर्तन करने वाली है। एवं गर्व रोपितीय के क्षेत्र में काम करने वाली है। यह जवाब दृष्टि से वहाँ सेन लेखक है। इसके उपराने खोड़ गुणवत्ता से अपनी विश्वासीता करते हुए कहा है।

(શેષ પૃષ્ઠ 25 પર)



## AIA National Activities

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दि एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडियंस इन अमेरिका द्वारा मैडीकल कौसिल अवार्ड गाला आयोजित  
डा. निर्मल मट्टू 'लाइफ टाइम अचीवमैंट' अवार्ड से सम्मानित

श्री मुंजाल ने कहा कि दि एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडियंस इन अमेरिका द्वारा आयोजित वार्षिक गाला का मुख्य उद्देश्य उन भारतीय मूल के चिकित्सकों एवं सर्जनों का सम्मान करना है, जिन्होंने अपने चिकित्सा क्षेत्र के करियर में उत्कृष्ट उपलब्धियां प्राप्त की हैं। श्री मुंजाल ने समारोह की अनूठी विशेषता की ओर इशारा करते हुए कहा कि यह ...



मैडीकल कौसिल गाला के दौरान डा. निर्मल मट्टू को 'लाइफ टाइम अचीवमैंट' अवार्ड से सम्मानित करते हुए (2) सम्मानित डा. चेतन सेतिया।



मैडीकल कौसिल गाला के दौरान पूर्व नैशनल अध्यक्ष के साथ नई चयनित कमेटी के पदाधिकारी (2) दि एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडियंस इन अमेरिका की कमेटी के पदाधिकारी सामूहिक चित्र में।



मैडीकल कौसिल गाला के दौरान दि एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडियंस इन अमेरिका की नई चुनी गई टीम के पदाधिकारी सामूहिक चित्र में एवं समागम के दौरान नृत्य करते हुए पदाधिकारी।



दि एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडियंस इन अमेरिका द्वारा आयोजित मैडीकल कौसिल गाला के दौरान उपस्थिति।

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# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA National Activities

# New India Abroad®

## AIA celebrates next-gen physicians in Medical Council Awards Gala

**Founded in 1967, the Association of Indians in America is the oldest national nonprofit organization of Indian Americans.**



Picture of Honorees along with President Gobind Munjal and Chair Dr Dolly Manvar and 4 Vice Chairs of the Medical Council. From Left to Right: Gala Vice Chair Dr Atul Kukar, Honoree Dr Deepak Bhatt, Gala Chair Dr Dolly Manvar, Honoree Dr Shuvendu Sen, Honoree Dr Chethan Sathya, Honoree Dr Latha Chandran, President Gobind Munjal, Past National President Dr Buddhadev Manvar, and Gala Vice Chairs; Dr Pallavi Manvar-Singh, Dr Pratichi Goenka, Dr Aprajita Mattoo. / AIA

After a 15-year hiatus, the Association of Indians in America (AIA) hosted its Medical Council Awards Gala on May 3. The event aimed to recognize second-generation Indian American physicians and surgeons for their professional and academic achievements.

Held at the landmark Italian Renaissance-inspired venue in New York City, the gala was attended by a mix of established professionals and younger attendees, with half the audience comprising the next generation of Indian American medical professionals.



Honorees with President and Gala Chair and President with Former national Presidents and Advisors. / AIA

Founded in 1967, the Association of Indians in America is the oldest national nonprofit organization of Indian Americans. Its mission has evolved from supporting early Indian immigrants in their transition to American life to now engaging a growing and diverse second-generation community.

AIA national president Gobind Munjal said the revival of the awards was a deliberate move to honor emerging leaders in the field and to bring younger members into the organization's fold. "The purpose of organizing this Medical Council Awards Gala," he said, "is to recognize and honor the second generation of Physicians and Surgeons of Indian descent, who have excelled in their career, academics and profession, as the first generation has already made a mark and earned their recognition."



Speakers at the Medical Council Awards Gala of May 3 at Cipriani. / AIA



Award Presentation to Honorees. / AIA

Calling it a historic moment, Munjal emphasized the involvement of younger members in planning and organizing the event. "This AIA Medical Council Awards Gala is of major historical importance, as younger members of AIA are taking leadership roles and organizing this event, while we, the senior members, are supporting them," he said. "You will be glad to know that 50% of the people attending this Gala were from the younger generation."

Munjal also announced that the event would now be held biennially. "This Medical Council Gala's tremendous success has excited a lot of next generation people and they have expressed interest in getting involved and becoming members. We will be having these Galas every 2 years or so," he said, adding that the organization is working to revamp its website to better engage younger audiences.



Medical Council Committee. / AIA

The event's organizing committee included Dr. Dolly Manvar as chair of the medical council, and four vice chairs representing the next generation: Dr. Atul Kukar, Dr. Pallavi Manvar Singh, Dr. Aprajita Mattoo, and Dr. Pratichi Goenka. Munjal thanked them for their "commitment and hard work in making this Medical Council Awards Gala a huge success." Chair of the AIA board of trustees Dr. Samin Sharma called the gathering the most successful event he had seen in his 15 years with AIA. "For the first time we have seen in any organization so many people from the younger generation attending the Gala, which is remarkable," he said. Dr. Sharma also suggested that AIA establish a charitable initiative to benefit people in India, pledging \$100,000 toward such a cause.



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA National Activities

**Pictures from AIA National Float in FIA (India Independence Day) Parade on August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 on Madison Avenue in Manhattan, NY**





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA National Activities





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA National Activities





## इंडिया डे परेड में एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडियांस इन अमेरिका की ज्ञांकी बनी आकर्षण का केंद्र



एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडियंस इन अमेरिका एशियन इंडियंस के न्यूयॉर्क चैप्टर के पदाधिकारी दीपावली महोत्सव के आयोजन की घोषणा कर रहे थे जोकि पहली बार 11 अक्टूबर 2025 को मैनहट्टन के साऊथ स्ट्रीट सीपोर्ट की बजाय लांग आइलैंड के बेबीलोन स्थित ओवरलुक बीच पर आयोजित किया जा रहा है तथा इस दौरान लोगों को पोस्टर भी वितरित किए गए....



न्यूयॉर्क। हम हिन्दुस्तानी

पहली बार था जब मैटिसन एवंन्य न्यूयार्क शरू कर अपने एक सुंदर आंको के साथ एसोसिएशन का ऑफ इंडिपेंडेंस इन अमेरिका का प्रयोग इंडिपेंडेंस एवं जॉन लिंप्सन की ताकत का प्रशंसन किया, जिसमें समूह पदविसंस्थानीय एवं सदस्यित संस्थान को पक्षट एवं जॉन के साथ विश्वास जाहाज रहे थे। इस अमेरिका के बीच विश्वास रूप से न्यूयार्क सोसायेटी का जन लिंप्सन न्यूयार्क में भारी कोट के अवैतनिक जनल अंडेससर्वर विवरण एवं प्रधान, डिटोर्को सोसायेटी जनल अंडेससर्वर विवरण हर्ष तथा कोस्टल फार्म कल्कन्स अफेसेंट एवं अपेक्षित व्यापारों का लिया और समूह एसोसिएशन अफ़ कॉरिवर्सन इन अमेरिका का न्यूयार्क एवं विदेशों के प्रयोगिकियों का व सरकारों का होमोना बहाया। इस आंको में यूटारेटेड स्टेट ऑफ अमेरिका के 17 विदेशों ने भाग लिया, जिनमें न्यूयार्क, न्यूजॉर्ज, कॉनेक्टिकूट, मैसाचुसेट्स एवं पर्सिपिंचन, मैरीलैंड, वज़ानिंग, साउथ कॉरिलिना,

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जांचिया, फोरिंडा, इंडियाना, इलिनोइस, विल्किसन, मिसिसिपी, मिसेसिपी, डेवरेस तथा कैलिफोर्निया इत्यादि समालिक तथा जारी किया गया था। इसके अधिकारी समय से तक जाको दोनों जारी रखे देशप्रणाली के गीत थे और अन्य जारी रखे देशप्रणाली के गीत थे। वहां प्राप्त उड़ाखनीय हैं जैसे-जैसे परेड मैडेसन ऐसे-ऐसे थे और अगे बढ़ रहे थे, एसेसिपी रेस्टरेंट आदि इविंग्स वहां इन अमेरिकी परिषिक इंडियन न्यूयॉर्क और प्रैटर के पदाधिकारी दीपावल महापूजा के आवाजों की ध्वनि परवण कर रहे थे जोकि फलवाह बाबा 11 अक्टूबर 2001 में हान्दूरन के साथ स्ट्रीट सोराट के बजाए थे।

लांग आइ-लॉड के बैबीलोन रियत ओवरलुक  
बीन पर आयाजित किया जा रहा है तथा  
इस दौरान लांगों को पोस्टर भी दितरिगत  
एग एंड इस अवसर पर एसोसिएशन ऑफ-इंडियन्स  
इन अमेरिका एशियन इंडियन्स के नैशनल  
प्रिंटर्ड-गोवर्नमेंट इंडियन्स के सम्बाधियों करते  
हुए कहा कि यह ड्रॉप-स्टेट क्षेत्र से बड़ी  
संख्या में लांगों को आक्रमित करने रेत  
किया जा रहा है ताकि वे दीपावली महोसूल  
के आयोजन को देख सके। जिसका सम्पादन  
शानदार आयोजित होना चाहीए। उत्तरें  
कहा कि दीपावली महोसूल में नियुक्त  
भाजन का व्यापक सांकेतिक गतिविधि था  
जैसे अलांकार कला एवं शिल्प के साथ-साथ  
कई तरह की बच्चों की खेलों का भी आयोजन  
किया जाएगा। उत्तरें कहा कि बैबीलोन  
शहर को ओवरलुक बैच लांग आइ-लॉड में  
गर्मियों में काएं बेहद ही लोकप्रिय यजग

है और एसोसिएशन अॉफ इंडियन्स इन अमेरिका प्रैशनिंग इंडियन्स द्वारा आयोजित 38वें दृष्टिवाची महास्वरूप विश्व आपसिंह की कैद होगी।

फैरेशन अॉफ इंडियन्स प्रैशन द्वारा आयोजित इंडिया डे पर्ड में अमेरिका के विभिन्न संगठनों ने बड़े जांच-खोल के साथ भाग लिया तथा लोगों ने प्रेसर्वेंट्स और स्टीटी से लेकर 12 ब्लॉक के बाहे में डॉक्सन एवं वॉर्सो के दोनों और से भव्य व्यापार किया तथा हर दूर भारत के लिये जयपुर की ओर आयोजित हो रहे थे। न्यूयॉर्क के शहर के सेयर एरिक एडवर्न एवं न्यूयॉर्क में भारत की संस्कृति जगत आयोडेसर विनाया श्रीकांत्रिम रामानन्द सहित बलीवुड हास्तिकों रिश्विका मदना एवं विजय देवकराम की साथ परंडा को हारी झाँकी दिवार्ही तथा समूह भारतीयों को भारत के 79वें संवत्सर दिवस की बधाई दी।



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA National Activities

# The Indian EYE

Connecting with India and Indians around the world

### AIA Float marches ahead with Pride during FIA India Day Parade at Madison Ave in Manhattan



The Association of Indians in America (AIA) founded in 1967 had a float in the Federation of Indians Associations (FIA) parade held on Madison Avenue in Manhattan, New York on Sunday, 17th of August 2025.

AIA is the oldest grassroot non-profit national organization of Asian Indians with chapters spread across the United States of America. Although AIA organization has been there for many years and has a lot of achievements to its credit besides an established identity for celebrating the Deepavali Festival at the iconic South Street Seaport year after year continuously for the last 37 years, it was the first time we displayed the AIA strength on Madison Ave, New York City by taking a beautifully decorated float with its members with tricolor sashes and badges waving the tricolor Indian flag.

We are very thankful and fortunate to have the presence of New York Senator John Liu, as well as the Consul General of India in New York, Hon Binaya S Pradhan along with the Deputy Consul General Hon Vishal Harsh and Consul for cultural affairs Tsewang Gyaltsen to Grace our Float as well as be kind enough to encourage AIA members with beautiful pictures. The float was decorated with AIA national executive committee banners mentioning names of all our chapters in the USA as well as AIA's resolve to: "Indian heritage and American commitment".

The individual names of 17 chapters in United States of America, namely; New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri, Minnesota, Texas, California were all lined up by the railing of the Float so that all standing and watching the parade, personally or on live worldwide TV, can see the large presence of our organization in the entire United States of America. Enthusiastic patriotic songs were sung and played on the float for well over two hours which showcases the passion of AIA towards our mother country India.

As the parade was moving along Madison Avenue, the announcements were being made of AIA's New York chapter Deepavali Festival being organized on October 11, 2025 for the first time at Overlook Beach in Babylon, Long Island instead of the South Street Seaport in Manhattan. Flyers for the same were also distributed to the crowd. National President Gobind Munjal said that this was being done to attract many people from the tri-state area to see this grand spectacle of Deepavali Festival with Spectacular Fireworks as a grand finale. Free food, many booths, cultural activities, arts and crafts, Naach Inferno, kids and adult activities filled with the amazing stage performances and a mega fun filled day. Raffle prizes, a Surprise Celebrity presence on the stage and Spectacular Fireworks will be major attractions. Overlook Beach in the town of Babylon is a very popular destination in the summer on Long Island and for the 38th Deepavali festival of AIA will be a spectacle not to miss!





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA National Activities



# New India Abroad®

Home → India Independence Day → AIA participates in FIA Parade with own float

INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY

## AIA participates in FIA Parade with own float

The organization also announced its upcoming Deepavali festival celebrations.

Home India Trump 2.0 News Biz Immigration Tech Movies+ Opinion Sports People Community



AIA at the FIA parade at Madison Avenue / Photo Courtesy- AIA



The Association of Indians in America (AIA) took part in the Federation of Indian Associations (FIA) parade on Madison Avenue in Manhattan on Aug. 17, marking the first time the organization joined the annual event with its own float.

The AIA float carried banners representing each of its chapters, along with the group's motto, "Indian Heritage and American Commitment." Members wearing tricolor sashes and badges waved Indian flags while patriotic songs played.



Participants and guests of the event / Photo Courtesy- AIA

"The individual names of 17 chapters in United States of America, namely; New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri, Minnesota, Texas, California were all lined up by the railing of the float so that all standing and watching the parade, personally or on live worldwide TV, can see the large presence of our organization in the entire United States of America," AIA explained in a statement.

Several dignitaries visited the float, including New York State Senator John Liu, Consul General of India in New York Binaya S. Pradhan, Deputy Consul General Vishal Harsh, and Consul for Cultural Affairs Tsewang Gyaltsen.



Dignitaries at the event / Photo Courtesy- AIA

Parade officials estimated that more than 100,000 people gathered along Madison Avenue for the event. New York City Mayor Eric Adams, along with invited guests, officially flagged off the parade.

During the march, AIA members distributed flyers for the group's upcoming Deepavali Festival, scheduled for Oct. 11, 2025. For the first time, the event will be held at Overlook Beach in Babylon, Long Island, instead of its long-standing location at the South Street Seaport in Manhattan.

Organizers said the festival will feature cultural programs, food stalls, children's activities, stage performances, raffles, and fireworks as part of the day's events.

Founded in 1967, AIA is the oldest grassroots national organization of Asian Indians in the United States, with 17 chapters across the country. The organization is recognized for hosting the annual Deepavali Festival in New York City for nearly four decades.



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA National Activities

TheSouthAsianTimes.info

INDIA DAY IN NEW YORK

August 23-29, 2025

### AAPI marks India's I-Day with Leadership Summit, Akshardham Visit, and India Day Parade



New York State's most iconic landmarks were illuminated in the vibrant saffron, white, and green colors of the Indian flag on Friday, August 15, 2025, to commemorate India's 79th Independence Day. The breathtaking tribute spanned the entire state, with landmarks including Niagara Falls, One World Trade Center, the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge, Grand Central Terminal's Pershing Square Viaduct, and Albany International Airport Gateway joining in this unprecedented celebration of Indo-American friendship. (Photo courtesy: India in New York/Facebook)



India in New York partnered with the 44th Annual Battery Dance Festival, New York City's longest-running public dance festival, which marked India Day on Aug 15 in celebration of India's Independence Day. (Photo courtesy: India in New York/Facebook)



The 79th Independence Day of India was celebrated at White Plains with flag hoisting, patriotic songs, and cultural programs. The event, organized by the Indian Cultural Association of North America in collaboration with the Mayor of White Plains, saw the participation of Congressman George Latimer, NY Assemblywoman Mary Jane Shimsky, members of the Westchester County legislature as well as a wide spectrum of the Indian diaspora. Consul Tsewang Gyaltsen joined the celebration, which stood as a vibrant tribute to India's independence, cultural richness, and the enduring bonds between India and the Indian diaspora in the United States (Photo courtesy: India in New York/Facebook)



The Association of Indians in America (AIA) founded in 1967, had a float in the Federation of Indian Associations (FIA) parade held on Madison Avenue in Manhattan, New York.

New York Senator John Liu, Consul General of India in New York, Binaya S Pradhan, along with the Deputy Consul General Vishal Harsh and Consul for Cultural Affairs Tsewang Gyaltsen, graced the float as well as encouraged AIA members with beautiful pictures. The float was decorated with AIA national executive committee banners mentioning names of all its chapters in the USA as well as AIA's resolve to: "Indian heritage and American commitment". (Photos courtesy: AIA)



Consul Pragya Singh attended the Flag Hoisting Ceremony and 79th Independence Day celebrations organized by the Indo American Culture Society in Iselin, New Jersey. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from the community and was graced by the esteemed presence of Senator Owen Henry, Mayor John E. McCormac, Councilman Ajay Patil, and several other distinguished dignitaries. (Photo courtesy: India in New York/Facebook)



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA Activities

### AIA Project India Fundraising function on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025



**THE ASSOCIATION OF INDIANS IN AMERICA, INC.**

NEW YORK CHAPTER – PROJECT INDIA (TAX ID: 23-7192936)

PRESENTS



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SUNDAY  
JULY 27, 2025

⌚  
05:00 - 06:30 PM (COCKTAIL RECEPTION)  
06:30 PM (DOORS OPEN)  
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# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA Activities

# The Indian EYE

Connecting with India and Indians around the world

### Music with Purpose: Falu performs at Project India event by AIA to support Rural Farmers in India

The Project India Initiative by the Association of Indians in America (AIA) NY Chapter, hosted a spectacular musical evening headlined by Grammy Award-winning artist Falu and her band — all in support of a vital cause.

The evening began with heartfelt opening remarks by Asmita Bhatia, who shared the inspiring work of Project India and their growing collaboration with Global Vikas Trust (GVT), an NGO based in India. A moving video followed, featuring testimonials from farmers whose lives have been uplifted by the GVT initiative — planting fruit trees to ensure sustainable income for farming families. These firsthand stories offered a compelling glimpse into how community-driven efforts can combat poverty and restore dignity.



Project India, the philanthropic arm of AIA, has long stepped up to support communities in times of crisis. Over the last 15 years, its partnership with GAP, an Ahmedabad-based NGO, has brought life-changing healthcare to 80 tribal villages along the Gujarat–Rajasthan border. In 2024, Project India was deeply inspired by the vision of Global Vikas Trust (GVT) and its founder, Mayank Gandhi. Guided by this vision, Project India's support helped plant 134,000 fruit trees, transforming the livelihoods of 166 farmers and their families — reducing suicide rates, restoring hope, and laying a path for long-term sustainability. Dr. Manjula Bansal introduced Falu and her talented ensemble, who took the stage and captivated the audience with a transcendent performance that spanned genres, languages, and generations. A special guest appearance by rapper Marty brought an unexpected and delightful energy, culminating in an unforgettable, joy-filled celebration that had everyone dancing.



After the performance, Divya Shah and Smita Khanna extended their gratitude to donors, patrons, supporters, and the media partners who helped amplify the message and mission behind the event. Among those media partners were ITV Gold, Desi Talk, Radio Zindagi, The India Eye, South Asia Times, and India Panorama — all of whom generously provided promotional support.



Sunny Thakkar of Sneh Arts, who managed and marketed the event, shared his appreciation:

“Seeing so many smiling faces and so much support for such a worthy cause was the biggest reward. We’re proud to be part of this journey.”

Join us in sustaining this momentum. Together, we can empower farmers, restore the environment, and create lasting change. We encourage you to visit the Global Vikas Trust (GVT) website to witness the incredible transformation underway across rural India — and invite you to be a part of it. Through Project India's continued support of GVT, we can deepen our collective impact and create meaningful, lasting opportunities for thousands of families. For more information visit [globalvikastrust.org](http://globalvikastrust.org).





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA Activities

AIA Desi Next Raas Garba on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

DESI NEXT & AIA PRESENT...

# GARBA RAAS NIGHT

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2025  
7:30 PM - 10:30 PM

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Anupam Goenka (516) 661-9065  
Harish Thakkar (917) 301-9333



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA Activities

### Pictures from AIA Desi Next Raas Garba





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA Activities





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA Activities

**Pictures from Diwali Celebration at the Minnesota State Capitol on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025**





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## AIA Activities





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## New York Chapter Activities

### Oath Taking Ceremony of President of AIA-NY Chapter Beena Kothari and the Executive Committee held on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025



HON. BRUCE A. BLAKEMAN  
County Executive

DR. BOBBY K. KALOTEE  
Chairman  
Human Rights Commission



#### **THE ASSOCIATION OF INDIANS IN AMERICA (AIA) NEW YORK CHAPTER**

Cordially invite you to the Oath and Inauguration Ceremony  
**AIA-New York, 2025-2026 President, Beena Kothari**  
& 2025-2026 Executive Committee

**Thursday , March 20th 2025**

**6.00 PM TO 9.00 PM**

**7.00 PM PROGRAM BEGINS**

**8.00 PM DINNER TO FOLLOW**

#### **VENUE**

**THEODORE ROOSEVELT EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BUILDING**  
**1550 FRANKLIN AVE, MINEOLA, NY 11501**

RSVP by email at - [theaianypresident@gmail.com](mailto:theaianypresident@gmail.com)

whatsapp or text only to - Dr. Bal K Gilja (516) 698-9272

Anju Sharma (516) 582-5888, Anita Thakkar (347) 804-7119

#### **PRESIDENT: BEENA KOTHARI**

Vice President: Anita Thakkar, Dr.Tarun Wasil MD, Harsh Vyas and Nilima Madan

Secretary: Dr. Sharad Kothari, MD

Treasurer: Dr. Bal K Gilja, MD

Members at Large: Anju Sharma, Bhavana Sharma, Deepika Modi, Dr. Narendra Lodha MD,

Dr. Sumita Sengupta, Dr. Usha Bansal, MD, Gobind Bathija, Jay Singh, Jyoti Gupta,

Kiran Reddy Parvathala, Narinder Kapoor, Navneet Agarwal, Nutan Roongta, Preeti Bhansali, Roopam Maini, Sanju Sharma, Surin Manaktala, Swati Vaishnav and Satnam Singh Parhar



Visit our website:  
[aia-ny.org](http://aia-ny.org)

AIA is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt

Organization.



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## New York Chapter Activities

### Pictures from Oath Taking Ceremony of President of AIA-NY chapter Beena Kothari and the Executive Committee





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## New York Chapter Activities





## New York Chapter Activities

The INDIAN PANORAMA

NY/NJ/CT

FRIDAY MARCH 28, 2025

19<sup>th</sup> YEAR

13

### Beena Kothari Inaugurated as President of AIA-NY



The newly sworn-in Executive of AIA-NY led by Beena Kothari with Legislator Rosemary Walker



Recognizing the AIA Past Presidents

MARCH 22, 2025

MINEOLA, NY (TIP): The Association of Indians in America - New York Chapter (AIA-NY), on March 20, held a momentous inauguration swearing-in of Beena Kothari as the new

President, along with the Executive Committee.

The event was attended by over 150 distinguished guests, including elected officials, AIA founding members, Board of Trustees, AIA Past Presidents,

community leaders, members, and media partners.

A plaque was presented to outgoing President of AIA-NY Dr. Jagdish Gupta for his leadership of AIA-NY.

The inauguration ceremony featured the singing of the American and Indian national anthems by Bina Sabapathy, Jyoti Gupta, and Roopam Maini, as well as a Ganesh Vandana performance by Hamsaanya School of Dance. Harsh Vyas and Jasbir Jay Singh served as emcees.

President Beena Kothari and other dignitaries delivered inspiring speeches, emphasizing the importance of preserving Indian heritage and culture in the USA, while promoting integration with mainstream America.

#### AIA-NY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, SWORN IN INCLUDED:

- President: Beena Kothari
- Vice Presidents: Anita Thakkar, Dr. Tarun Wasil, Harsh Vyas, Nilima Madan
- Treasurer: Dr. Bal K. Gilja
- Secretary: Dr. Sharad Kothari
- Members-at-Large: -
- Anju Sharma, Bhavani Sharma, Deepak Bansal, Deepika Modi
- Dr. Narendra Lodha, Dr. Sumita Sengupta, Dr. Usha Bansal,
- Gobind Bathija, Jay Jasbir Singh, Jyoti Gupta
- Kiran Reddy Parvathala, Narinder Kapoor
- Navneet Agarwal, Nick Garg, Nutan Roongta
- Roopam Maini, Sanju Sharma, Surin Manaktala
- Swati Vaishnav, Satnam Singh Parhar

#### President BEENA KOTHARI'S VISION:

In her inspiring address, President Kothari emphasized the importance of cultural preservation and community engagement. "We represent not only ourselves but also our rich cultural heritage, values, and aspirations. We are the bridge between our Indian roots and our American dreams. Together, let us strive to take AIA to new heights and continue to serve our community with pride and purpose."

Embracing the inclusive spirit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', Beena strives to break down barriers and build bridges. She believes in the potential of young individuals and women to drive



President Beena Kothari presenting a bouquet to Legislator Rosemary Walker

positive change and is committed to empowering them to become leaders.

Beena's ultimate goal is to contribute meaningfully to the community, spreading love, kindness, and compassion, and making the world a better place for all.

#### UPCOMING INITIATIVES:

- Holi Celebration - March 26th, in collaboration with CUNY Asian American Student Board
- Annual Fundraising Gala for Deepavali - June 1st
- National AIA Medical Council Awards Gala - May 3rd, at Cipriani 42nd Street, Manhattan
- Desi Next Youth - (TBD)
- Fundraiser Dinner AIA's Project India - July 20th
- AIA-NY Iconic Deepavali Festival - October 2025

Beena Kothari's speech was a heartfelt tribute to the individuals who have contributed to the organization's success. She acknowledged the vital role played by past presidents, volunteers, sponsors, and supporters.

The evening concluded with a heartfelt thank-you note by Treasurer Dr. Bal K. Gilja and Secretary Dr. Sharad Kothari, followed by a celebratory dinner.

The event marked the beginning of a new chapter for AIA-NY, filled with a commitment to unity, cultural preservation, and community service.



President Beena Kothari is congratulated by family and friends



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## New York Chapter Activities

### Fundraising Gala at Pearl Banquet in Long Island held on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025

The Association of Indians in America  
New York Chapter

**38<sup>TH</sup>**

*Deepavali  
Benefit Gala*

**June 1, 2025**  
**Sunday 5.00pm onwards**

Pearl Banquet  
276 W Old Country Rd, Hicksville, NY 11801

**\$175  
PP**

**Dr. Samin K. Sharma**  
Chairman Board Of Trustees

**Kanak Golia**  
Gala Chair

**Haridas Kothawala**  
Finance Chair

**Beena Kothari**  
President

Pay via Zelle (516) 698-9272 or Visit at <https://aia-ny.org>

RSVP:  
Beena Kothari : 631-988-1280  
[theaianypresident@gmail.com](mailto:theaianypresident@gmail.com)

SAVE THE DATE TO JOIN & SUPPORT  
AIA'S ICONIC 38TH DEEPAVALI  
CELEBRATION



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## New York Chapter Activities



THE ASSOCIATION OF INDIANS IN AMERICA  
NEW YORK CHAPTER

**Honoree 2025**



**Hetal Gor, MD, FACOG**

*Excellence in OBGYN, Recognizing outstanding contributions in the field of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Medical Director, Women's OBGYN, CEO, Health Media*



THE ASSOCIATION OF INDIANS IN AMERICA  
NEW YORK CHAPTER

**Honoree 2025**



**Navneet Sikka, Youth Ambassador**

*Honoring a Visionary Leader, recognizing exceptional achievements in business, entrepreneurship, and social activism, Distinguished Businesswoman, Dedicated Social Activist.*



THE ASSOCIATION OF INDIANS IN AMERICA  
NEW YORK CHAPTER

**Honoree 2025**



**Devendra Shrivastava, MD**

*Honoring a Distinguished Medical Leader, Recognizing a respected figure in the medical community for outstanding contributions and dedication to excellence in Medical Director of Dialysis Services, renowned Nephrologist*



THE ASSOCIATION OF INDIANS IN AMERICA  
NEW YORK CHAPTER

**Honoree 2025**



**Ramesh C. Gupta, Ph.D**

*Synthetic Organic Chemistry Expert, President, Chem-Master International, Inc, Driving Value through Research and Innovation in New York, Founder, R&S Chemicals, Pioneering Advances in Organic and Medicinal Chemistry, North Carolina*



THE ASSOCIATION OF INDIANS IN AMERICA  
NEW YORK CHAPTER

**Honoree 2025**



**Karthik Gujja M.D., M.P.H**

*Honoring a Leader in Cardiovascular Care, Recognizing outstanding contributions and dedication to excellence in Director of Cardiac Services, Director of Endovascular Services, Successful Entrepreneur.*



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## New York Chapter Activities

### Pictures from Fundraising Gala at Pearl Banquet in Long Island





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## New York Chapter Activities





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## New York Chapter Activities





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## New York Chapter Activities

**AIA-NY hosted its first-ever Holi celebration in collaboration with Queensborough Community College (CUNY) on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

The event was a vibrant celebration of spring, featuring music, food, and colors, and was open to everyone. The Association of Indians in America (AIA-NY) partnered with QCC to bring this cultural milestone to life, highlighting the importance of Holi in Indian culture, which marks the victory of good over evil and the arrival of spring.

The event included speeches, traditional dances, and the iconic throwing of colored powders, or "gulal," symbolizing love, renewal, and new beginnings. This collaboration not only showcased QCC's commitment to cultural diversity but also strengthened ties between AIA-NY and the college community. This vibrant event was open to everyone! everyone enjoyed music, food, and colors, making it the perfect spring celebration. The best part was The colors used are stain-resistant, so everyone can play and have fun without worrying about stains. Light refreshments was sponsored by AIA and QCC Student Government and Student Clubs.





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## New York Chapter Activities

### Pictures from Holi at CUNY Queens Community College (QCC) Campus





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## New York Chapter Activities





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## New York Chapter Activities

### AIA-NY strengthens educational ties with QCC through scholarships and cultural exchange

## The South Asian Times

excellence in journalism



Leadership of AIA-NY and Queensborough Community College with 9 recipients of AIA-NY scholarships for \$1,000 each. One recipient was not present at the time. (Photo courtesy: AIA-NY)

Leadership of AIA-NY and Queensborough Community College with 9 recipients of AIA-NY scholarships for \$1,000 each. One recipient was not present at the time. (Photo courtesy: AIA-NY)

#### **10 Queensborough Community College students honored with scholarships at Deepavali celebration last month**

**Queens, NY:** The Association of Indians in America, New York chapter (AIA-NY), has reaffirmed its commitment to education and cultural collaboration through an ongoing partnership with the City University of New York's Queensborough Community College (QCC).

The collaboration, initiated under the leadership of Dr. Jagdish K. Gupta, then President of AIA-NY, began in January 2025 with the establishment of the "Student Success Scholarship Fund." The fund launched with an initial \$10,000 donation, providing 10 scholarships of \$1,000 each to students from low-income families enrolled in certificate or associate degree programs at QCC.



At AIA-NY's \$10,000 check presentation to QCC. (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-NEC, Dr. Christine Mangino - President of Queensborough Community College, Dr. Jagdish K. Gupta - Immediate Past President AIA-NY, Smiti Khanna - Advisor AIA-NY, Beena Kothari - President AIA-NY, Bhavna Sharma - 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. (Photo courtesy: AIA-NY)

QCC, recognized among the top-ranked community colleges in the CUNY system, serves students from 111 countries who speak over 60 languages, reflecting the vibrant diversity of Queens. This made it a natural partner for AIA-NY, whose mission centers on fostering education, community service, and intercultural exchange.

Since the partnership's inception, AIA-NY and QCC have celebrated a series of cultural milestones together, including the Holi Festival of Colors in March 2025 and the Deepavali – Festival of Lights celebration held last month in the Student Union Building. The Deepavali event brought together students, faculty, families, and community leaders in a joyful display of music, dance, arts, and traditional hospitality.



Jagdish K Gupta, Immediate Past President, AIA-NY presenting recipients of 2025 scholarships, along with Harsh Vyas - Vice President, AIA-NY, Dr. Christine Mangino - President, Queensborough Community College, Mr. Gobind Munjal - President, AIA-NEC, Mrs. Smiti Khanna, - Founder AIA-NY Deepavali, and Mrs. Beena Kothari - President AIA-NY. (Photo courtesy: AIA-NY)

During the Deepavali celebration, 10 scholarship recipients were recognized and congratulated by AIA-NY Immediate Past President Dr. Jagdish K. Gupta, QCC President Dr. Christine Mangino, Professor Dr. Nidhi Gadura, and AIA-NY leaders including current President Mrs. Beena Kothari, National President Mr. Gobind Munjal, and as well as Mrs. Smiti Khanna and Mr. Harsh Vyas.

"Education is the foundation of empowerment, and cultural collaboration brings communities together," said Dr. Gupta. "Through this partnership with Queensborough Community College, we hope to inspire students to pursue excellence while celebrating the diversity that defines New York."

The scholarships, administered by the Scholarships and Awards Committee of the Academic Senate at QCC, have been credited directly to recipients' accounts, helping them pursue their academic and professional goals.



## New York Chapter Activities

Friday 28 Nov to 05 Dec 2025

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

INSIDER

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## AIA-NY Strengthens Educational Ties with Queensborough Community College through Scholarships and Cultural Exchange

10 QCC students honored with scholarships at Deepavali celebration last month



(By Our Staff Reporter) : Queens, NY: The Association of Indians in America, New York chapter (AIA-NY), has reaffirmed its commitment to education and cultural collaboration through an ongoing partnership with the City University of New York's Queensborough Community College (QCC).

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## SMALL DONATIONS MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE



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# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## New York Chapter Activities

**Diwali Celebration at Westbury Middle School for the 1<sup>st</sup> time on  
October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025**

Westbury Middle School Celebrates  
**DIWALI**  
*The festival of lights - A celebration of light within*  
**Join Us!**

**Celebrate the spirit of Diwali, the Festival of Lights,  
with our students, families, and community.**

**Experience a colorful display of arts and crafts created  
by our students that showcase the beauty of the  
Diwali Holiday.**

 **Date: Thursday, October 21, 2025**

 **Time: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

 **Location: Westbury Middle School - Lobby  
455 Rockland Street, Westbury, NY 11590**





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## New York Chapter Activities

### Pictures from Diwali Celebration at Westbury Middle School

West Middle School in Westbury, NY, proudly celebrated Diwali, the Festival of Lights! The event united students, families, and staff in a vibrant celebration of culture, creativity, and community. The school was beautifully decorated with colorful rangoli designs, sparkling diyas, and art displays, welcoming guests with rose petals created by our talented students. The henna station, arts and crafts corner, and hospitality area embodied the warmth, unity, and beauty of Diwali. Each diya radiated hope and positivity, while every rangoli pattern showcased creativity and teamwork. Students excelled in sharing the true meaning of Diwali: spreading light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, and love over division. Heartfelt thanks to all who contributed to this unforgettable celebration, making our first Diwali a joyous success! We look forward to next year's celebration.





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## New York Chapter Activities





## New York Chapter Activities

# AIA-NY Deepavali Celebrations at the Overlook Beach in Long Island, on October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## New York Chapter Activities

### Pictures from AIA-NY Deepavali Celebrations at the Overlook Beach in Long Island





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## New York Chapter Activities





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## New York Chapter Activities





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## New York Chapter Activities





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## New York Chapter Activities





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## New York Chapter Activities





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## New York Chapter Activities





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## New York Chapter Activities

# NEWS INDIA

### Thousands enjoy AIA-NY's 38th Deepavali Festival in new Long Island venue - News India Times



Children, young adults, and adults gave colorful classical and folk dance performances at the October 11, 2025, Deepavali Festival hosted by AIA-NY. ALL PHOTOS: AIA-NY

The Association of Indians in America, New York (AIA-NY) celebrated its 38th Deepavali Festival at the new venue in Overlook Beach, Babylon, NY, October 11, 2025, with all the joyful sparkle, cultural, cuisine, and fireworks it has become famous for over the years.

Organizers estimated that some 5,000 people enjoyed the day-long events.



Some episodes from the epic Ramayana were presented by Pt S.N. Charka of East-West School of Dance. Seen above is the Ramayan shrushtapakha nose cutting episode.

Established in 1967, AIA is the oldest Indian community organization in the US. Its motto is 'Indian Heritage American Commitment.'

A spectacular live fireworks display lit up Long Island's south shore, creating new memories, carried over from previous years at South Street Seaport in Manhattan.



A spectacular live fireworks display lit up Long Island's south shore, concluding the program.



A glamorous evening Fashion Show choreographed by celebrity designer Prashant Goyal was an eye-catcher.

AIA-NY President Beena Kothari said, "This event was a dream come true... promoting culture, unity, and community engagement."



Town of Babylon Supervisor Rich Schaffer invited AIA-NY to hold the Deepavali Festival in his Town again next year.



Honorees Sunita Sadhna, Dr Gurmohan Syali, Dr Abhay Malhotra, and Justice Karen Gopee with the AIA team, guests and dignitaries, including Congressman Suhas Subramanyam.

The community celebration opened with the American and Indian national anthems amid a flag ceremony.

The program had something for each age group. The first segment saw classical and folk-dance performances on stage by kids, young adults and adults. Rangoli and art competitions were keenly contested. The Health & Wellness Zone had Yoga & Zumba in another enclosure.



New York State Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar said it felt good to be "with my family, Indian American family".

Many past Presidents of AIA National and AIA-NY came to enjoy the event which kicked off with an auspicious Ganesh Vandana and concluded with Lakshmi Ji Aarti, symbolizing light, prosperity, and togetherness.

Sponsors, presenters and VIP guests were served an elaborate vegetarian meal before the fireworks show.

About 25 stalls and 5 food vendors were seen doing brisk business.

Main sponsors of the celebration included Bolla Oil, Mount Sinai Health System, New York Cancer and Blood Specialists, Cheap-o-Air, Northwell Health System, Amneal, Navika Group, ICICI Bank, NEC-AIA and Ranju & Ravi Batra.

The several Indian American media partners included Parikh Worldwide Media which publishes Desi Talk, News India Times, Gujarat Times, and its television wing, ITV Gold. Others present were Zee Group, Radio Zindagi, Jus TV, The South Asian Times, The Indian Panorama, The Indian Eye, Hum Hindustani, South Asian Insider, [AlotusInTheMud.com](http://AlotusInTheMud.com), The World Voice, and Bollywood Insider.

Organizers thanked the Town of Babylon, local partners, sponsors, and volunteers for their support.

AIA-NY's achievements include New York City's official recognition of Diwali as a holiday, starting in 2024, and the 2013 release of the USPS Diwali stamp.

Many lawmakers and dignitaries greeted attendees and congratulated AIA-NY for organizing the colorful extravaganza. AIA-NY celebrates Diwali as the festival of joy and happiness, common among Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, Buddhists, and people from many different countries, including Indo-Caribbeans, organizers said in a press release.

US Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer sent a video-recorded message. Town of Babylon Supervisor Rich Schaffer, impressed by the teeming crowds despite forecasts of bad weather, announced that his Town will also support the Deepavali Festival next year.

US Congressman Suhas Subramanyam came all the way from Virginia. New York State Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar noted that the Empire State's lead in making Diwali a public holiday has been followed by other states, including Pennsylvania, and most recently, California, the largest state in the nation.



A half-hour devotional Kirtan Concert was presented by Bhakti Marga devotees.

Highlights of the program included a Kirtan Concert by Bhakti Marga, founded by Paramahansa Vishwananda, and Ramayan Live Dance Drama choreographed by the renowned Pt S.N. Charka of East-West School of Dance in Monroe, upstate New York.



AIA-NY President Beena Kothari thanked celebrity designer Prashant Goyal and his models for the Cultural Fashion Show.



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## New York Chapter Activities

**Krishnayan - Nitya Nata** February 28, 2026 From 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM The Rose and Alfred Mission Performing Arts Center 3500 Bay Avenue at 8th, Bronx, NY 10324 718-284-6306 | 718-284-6304 Info@deeshindeek.com • www.deeshindeek.com

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Home » Indian-American » AIA-NY's 38th Deepavali Festival Shines Bright on Long Island

INDIAN-AMERICAN

### AIA-NY's 38th Deepavali Festival Shines Bright on Long Island

BY DEEPIKA CHANDRAKAR — OCTOBER 15, 2020 NO COMMENTS 2 MINS READ



### AIA-NY's 38th Deepavali Festival Shines Bright on Long Island

**READ MORE** [www.globalindiannewsnetwork.com](http://www.globalindiannewsnetwork.com)

The Association of Indians in America, New York Chapter (AIA-NY), made history with its 38th Deepavali Festival, held at Overlook Beach in Babylon, Long Island. The event marked the first-ever celebration of this scale on Long Island, drawing an estimated 5,000 visitors for a day filled with dance, devotion, and dazzling performances.

The festival showcased a mix of traditional and contemporary Indian culture through folk dances, classical performances, spiritual presentations, and live concerts. Attendees enjoyed authentic Indian cuisine, shopping stalls, and art exhibits, while children participated in rangoli and art competitions.

AIA-NY President Beena Kothari described the event as a "dream come true," emphasizing its goal of promoting cultural unity and community engagement. Town of Babylon Supervisor Rich Schaffer, impressed by the event's turnout despite weather concerns, announced his town's continued support for next year's celebration.

The festivities featured a Ramayan Live Dance Drama choreographed by Pt. S.N. Charkha from the East-West School of Dance and a Kirtan Concert by Bhakti Marga devotees. Adding glamour to the evening, celebrity designer Prashant Goyal presented a Cultural Fashion Show, followed by a high-energy Garba performance by Rang De Bollywood artists Manpreet Komal and Amit Sharma.

Several dignitaries, including US Congressman Suhas Subramanyam and New York Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar, attended the event. Rajkumar highlighted New York's pioneering step in recognizing Diwali as a public holiday, inspiring other states like California and Pennsylvania to follow suit.

Prominent personalities such as Ruma Devi, a recipient of India's Nari Shakti Puraskar, were honored alongside Justice Karen Gopee, Dr. Gurmohan Syali, Dr. Abhay Malhotra, and Sunita Sadhnani for their contributions to society.

The day concluded with Lakshmi Ji Aarti and a grand fireworks show, lighting up Long Island's south shore in a spectacle of color and joy.

AIA-NY expressed gratitude to the Town of Babylon, sponsors, and countless volunteers for making the celebration possible. Established in 1967, the Association of Indians in America is the oldest Indian community organization in the US, promoting the motto "Indian Heritage, American Commitment."

# The South Asian Times

excellence in journalism

## Tirlok Malik brings Bharat to life at New York's grand Diwali celebrations

Friday, 10 Oct, 2025



(Photo courtesy: Tirlok Malik)

Emmy-nominated filmmaker, actor, and Happy Life Yoga speaker Tirlok Malik will once again bring his artistry and passion to the stage this Diwali season, portraying Bharat in two of the most prestigious celebrations in New York—the AIA Diwali Festival at Overlook Beach, Long Island and the Times Square Diwali Celebrations.

Malik has been playing Bharat under the direction and choreography of Pandit S.N. Charkha, Founder of the East-West School of Dance and disciple of Padma Vibhushan Pandit Birju Maharaj, for many years, including seven consecutive years at the Museum of Metropolitan Art's annual Diwali celebrations in New York to packed audiences. "Pandit Charkha ji has dedicated his life to dance and the arts. To be under his direction is a blessing. When I perform Bharat, I feel completely immersed, almost in a trance, especially during the coronation scene of Lord Rama," says Malik.

For Malik, Bharat—the devoted brother of Lord Rama in the Ramayana—represents the highest ideals of love, respect, devotion, and sacrifice. "To portray Bharat is not just acting; it is stepping into values that have timeless relevance," he explains.



(Photo courtesy: Tirlok Malik)

The AIA Diwali Festival, now in its 38th year, is the oldest and most respected celebration of its kind in America, led this year by President Bina Kothari and National President Gobind Munjal. The festivities at Overlook Beach will feature fireworks, music, and a spectacular dance drama directed by Pandit Charkha with Malik as Bharat.

The celebrations will continue with the Times Square Diwali Festival, marking its 10th year, created and led by Neeta Bhasin, who has given Diwali a global stage at the very heart of New York City. "What Neeta Bhasin ji has achieved is remarkable—she has made Diwali a part of the world's most iconic square. Performing Ramayana at Times Square is a historic experience, and it sends a powerful message about the universality of our traditions," says Malik.

For Malik, the essence of these performances is to bring the message of the Ramayana to audiences in America. "In today's world, the values that Ramayana represents are needed more than ever. By bringing these stories to New York audiences, we are not just celebrating Diwali—we are reminding ourselves and our children of the values that sustain humanity."



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Illinois Chapter Activities

### Business Networking & Gala Night on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Association of Indians  
In America



Illinois Chapter  
(Established: 1967)

# Business Networking & GALA NIGHT

Join us for an unforgettable evening of Business Networking, Industry Expert Forums, Glamour, Fine dining, and Entertainment

09 NOV (Sun)  
05:00 PM - 10:00 PM

**Ashyana Banquets**  
1620 75th St, Downers Grove, IL 60516

Dress Code: Western or Indian Formals

TICKETS: \$50.00  
INCLUDES APPETIZERS & DINNER

CHIEF GUEST  
**Hon. Carol Moseley Braun**  
**Former US Senator**

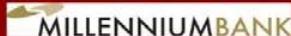
#### BUSINESS NETWORK PANELIST(S)

**From Hospitality, Technology,  
Wellness, Banking and Financial  
Industry**

#### GUEST SPEAKER

**Gobind Munjal**  
**(National President -AIA)**

#### TITLE SPONSOR



Lucy Pandey  
President  
C: 847-913-4993

Hina Trivedi  
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Manoranjan Mishra  
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C: 773-771-7687

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Maliha Afreen  
Secretary  
C: 630-550-0697

Ashish Sen  
Member at Large  
C: 312-731-3224



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Illinois Chapter Activities

### Pictures from Business Networking & Gala Night





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Illinois Chapter Activities





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Illinois Chapter Activities





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Illinois Chapter Activities





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Illinois Chapter Activities



Our Deepest Appreciation to  
Gobind Munjal  
President, National AIA  
For your Groundbreaking Leadership  
and leading AIA to new heights





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Illinois Chapter Activities

**Pictures from India's Independence Day Celebrations at National India Hub, graced by Mayor of Schaumburg Tom Dailly, State Representative Michelle Mussman, Deputy Consul General India T.D. Butia, and other dignitaries with the core Team of AIA and guests**





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Illinois Chapter Activities

**Pictures of National President with former Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi and Consul General of India Chicago Somnath Ghosh in a Meet and Greet event this afternoon in Chicago**





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## New Jersey Chapter Activities

### Pictures from AIA NJ donated care packages to Elijah's Promise soup kitchen in New Brunswick NJ in December for Christmas

Uma Swaminathan AIA, past trustee and president of NJ chapter, and Meena Waran collected donations. AIA also got items that were needed and packaged them to be delivered. A team of AIA members worked in creating the packages. Uma, and Kaushik, current New Jersey AIA president delivered the donations of rice and care packages to the Soup kitchen.





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## South New Jersey Chapter Activities

### **Pictures from Gandhi Art & Writing celebration held at Princeton University on Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

The AIA-SJ chapter held its annual Gandhi Art & Writing celebration on Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at Princeton University. Each year the committee selects one of Gandhi's quotes and NJ middle to high school students can submit artwork, essays or poetry based on it.

We received nearly 100 submissions from over 20 schools and honored the top 12 students with their families and teachers at Princeton's Carl A. Fields Center. The celebration included performances from the Shishya School of Performing Arts, presentations from the winning award recipients, and refreshments provided by Moghul Catering. Application for the 2026 competition will be available in February.





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Madison Wisconsin Chapter Activities

Diwali Celebrations on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**26th Oct**  **Sunday**

**Association of Indians in America (AIA) MADISON PRESENTS**  
An 501(c)(3), Non-Profit organization

**DIWALI Celebrations !!**

**Grand Stage Performances and Dinner**

**McFarland High School**  
**5103 Farwell St, McFarland, WI**

**From 2-3 PM Ticket Check-in & Social Hour**  
**Program: 3-6 PM**  
**Dinner after Programs End**

**Contact:**  
Vijay : 608 239 3869  
Muktak : 608 239 1495  
Deepti: 608 709 6901  
Shilpa : 608 692 0527  
Phani: 608 695 8690  
Kamlesh: 608 469 3747

**SCAN QR CODE TO BUY TICKETS**  
At the gate, prices will be up by \$5

**Kids 5-12 - \$18**  
**Adults - 12+ - \$23**  
**Kids under 5 - Free**


**We Thank All Our Sponsors**

**WYNDHAM GARDEN**  
Mahesh&Vijay Sharma

**LAVIK EXP REALTY**  
Bala & Masi

**NEWVILLE TRAVEL CENTER**  
HIGHWAY 59 & I-90 (Exit 163) 608-884-9310

**BOMBAY BAZAAR**

**CODE NINJAS**  
Gaganpreet and Ankush Saini

**ISR Info Way**

**Amber INDIAN CUISINE**

**INDIA HOUSE**  
FOODS • SPICES • GIFTS

Mr. Narinder& Kamlesh Saini  
Manjit Singh Edgerton Wi  
JRSS Corporation. Priya Gali  
Sundeep Singh & Surjit Kaur Manhani  
Owner- BP Gas station, New Glarus(WI)

**Acker Builders, Inc.**



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Madison Wisconsin Chapter Activities

### Pictures from Diwali Celebrations





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Madison Wisconsin Chapter Activities

### Pictures from Sewa Diwali Drive 2025 - Food Pantry Donation



ASSOCIATION OF  
INDIANS IN  
AMERICA(AIA)  
WISCONSIN  
CHAPTER/SEWA  
DIWALI FOOD DRIVE  
2025



Lussier Food Pantry  
donation : 800 lbs.



ASSOCIATION  
OF INDIANS IN  
AMERIA (AIA)  
WISCONSIN  
CHAPTER/SEWA  
DIWALI FOOD  
DRIVE 2025

MADISON COMMUNITY MAKES A DIFFERENCE! THANK YOU, MADISON, FOR  
BEING PART OF THIS AMAZING GIVING JOURNEY!!!!



COLLECTED  
AND DONATED  
**5057 lbs.** TO  
THE LOCAL  
FOOD BANKS



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Madison Wisconsin Chapter Activities





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Madison Wisconsin Chapter Activities

**Pictures from AIA-WI and Tamil Sangam distributed food to the University for 120 Indian Students Fresh Cooked food on December 13<sup>th</sup> , 2025**





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Madison Wisconsin Chapter Activities

**India Day 2025 Celebration on August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**ASSOCIATION OF INDIANS IN AMERICA (AIA) - MADISON, WI CHAPTER**

**Join us for Celebrating**

# **India Day 2025**

**78th Independence Day**

**16<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**

**10:00AM TO 1:00PM**

**100 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD**

**MADISON, WI 53703**

**Our**

- Flag Ceremony
- Parade March
- Cultural Programs

**Fair Attractions:**

- Authentic Indian food
- Face paintings, Henna, arts and tattoos
- Traditional clothings, designer jewelry
- Fun games and much more!!!

**BRING YOUR CHILDREN, YOUR NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS TO EXPLORE INDIAN FOOD, CULTURE AND MUSIC!!@!**

**FOR MORE INFO: Please Contact**

**Vijay Sharma (608-239-3869)**  
**Muktak Sharma 608.239.1495**  
**Phani Palety 608.695.8690**  
**Stall booking: Raje Venkatesan (raje5337@gmail.com)**  
**Cultural Coordinator Deepti Awashti (dawasthi2008@gmail.com)**

**Sponsored by:**

**RETIREMENT INCOME PLANNING LLC**  
- RETIREMENT HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER BEFORE -  
NARADA & MURTHY  
6088071100

**PHANI PALETY**  
WELCOME REALTORS VOLKERS INC.

**INDIA HOUSE**  
505 S. GARDNER RD MADISON, WI 53703  
Provisions & Zandies PH 608.248.4546/4547/4548

**Sunitha Murthy**  
American Heart Association

**Shell**  
Raju Bal Tara

**Amber**  
INDIAN CUISINE

**Fresh Mart**  
International supermarket  
Sun Prairie



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Madison Wisconsin Chapter Activities

### Pictures from India Day 2025 Celebration





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Madison Wisconsin Chapter Activities

**Garba and Dandiya Night Celebration on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025**



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

**6PM - 10PM**

**GLACIER EDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**800 KIMBELL LANE, VERONA, WI**

**SINGERS & DJ FROM CHICAGO**



**GENERAL: \$12**

**KIDS (AGES 5-9): \$8**

**KIDS UNDER 5: FREE**

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

**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**



### **SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS**

**FRESH MART  
SUN PRAIRIE, UNIVERSITY AVE  
PH: 815-997-7693**

**BOMBAY BAZAAR  
INDIAN GROCERY STORE  
PH: 608-2371377**

**JOSH LAVIK ASSOCIATES  
WWW.JOSHLAVIK.COM  
PH: 608-440-9607**

**ROYAL INDIAN CUISINE  
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PH: 608-841-1619**

**AMBER INDIAN CUISINE  
UNIVERSITY AVE  
PH: 608-824-0324**

**SWAGAT  
INDIAN CUISINE  
PH: 608-836-9399**

**PHANI PALETY  
WELCOME REALTORS  
PH: 608-695-8690**



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Madison Wisconsin Chapter Activities

### Pictures from Garba and Dandiya Night Celebration





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Madison Wisconsin Chapter Activities





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Madison Wisconsin Chapter Activities

**Pictures from AIA Hindi Classes fundraising to AHA Temple donated Jagannath Yatra June 7<sup>th</sup> 2025 \$385 by AIA Hindi class students, parents and teachers**





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Madison Wisconsin Chapter Activities

### AIA Senior Club New Year's Party 2025

#### ASSOCIATION OF INDIANS IN AMERICA (AIA) MADISON CHAPTER



### 2025 SENIOR CLUB NEW YEARS PARTY Includes Indian Music and Catered Indian Luncheon

#### FEATURING: SURAROHAM BAND

LIVE ORCHESTRA MUSIC WITH SINGING FROM ALL AROUND  
INDIA

**WHO:** Seniors & Adults

**COST:** \$15 PER TICKET PER PERSON

**WHEN:** Sunday, JAN 19, 2025 1:00PM-3:30PM

**WHERE:** VERONA AREA SENIOR CENTER

108 PAOLI ST.

VERONA, WI 53593

**PHONE:** 608-845-7471

Food cannot be guaranteed for tickets purchased on day  
of event. Reserve your ticket today!!



Buy your tickets from  
the Verona Senior Cen-  
ter with cash.

Purchase your ticket  
online with a credit  
card on Zeffy website  
by scanning the bar  
code.

Zeffy is non for profit site and does automatically add in  
a donation for their site. If you do not choose to donate to  
this site, in the section : "Support the 100%free plat-  
form we use! Learn more Click down and select  
OTHER and enter \$0 contribution field."



SCAN ME

Questions about this event: Contact :Verona Sen-  
ior Center at 608-845-7471 or email Geeta Shar-  
ma @ aiamadisonseniorclub@gmail.com



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Madison Wisconsin Chapter Activities

### Pictures from AIA Senior Club New Year's Party 2025





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Madison Wisconsin Chapter Activities

Pictures from AIA Picnic held on July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Florida Chapter Activities

India's Independence Day Celebration on August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025



THE ASSOCIATION OF  
INDIANS IN AMERICA  
FLORIDA CHAPTER  
INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE

# *Indic's Independence Day*

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 | 11:30-4PM

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

### **Cultural Show @ IPM**

Patriotic and folk performances from different regions of India!

### **FREE ADMISSION**

GARAGE PARKING \$15 VALET PARKING \$30

MASTER OF CEREMONY



SAIRA ANWER  
LOCAL 10 NEWS TEAM

### **BROWARD CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**

201 SW 5TH AVE, FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33312

#### **CONTACT US**

#INDIADAYSF



ALEFIYA 954-648-0133

SHARMISTA 561-573-8972



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



AIAFLORIDA@GMAIL.COM



WWW.AIAFL.ORG



AIASOUTHFLORIDA



AIASFL



## Florida Chapter Activities

This past year's India Independence Day Celebration was a free, family-friendly cultural festival presented by the Association of Indians in America (AIA) Florida Chapter at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts. The event took place on Sunday, August 17, 2025, from 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and drew more than 1,000 community members, families, and visitors from across South Florida.

Attendees enjoyed a vibrant cultural show featuring traditional Indian dance and music performances, with showcases representing various regions of India. Live entertainment highlighted the richness of Indian heritage and offered engaging performances for all ages. The event opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony featuring dignitaries like state representatives, mayors, and community leaders. Attendees were led into the theatre by traditional dhol drums to kick off the cultural performances. A unique addition to the show was a dance troupe performing a medley of traditional dances of Goa.

The event also featured a lively vendor marketplace offering Indian cuisine, traditional clothing, jewelry, and handmade crafts. Local vendors offered a range of goods that reflected India's diverse cultural traditions. From pure silk Kanjivaram sarees to chikan on soft cotton, Indian handiwork was on display at this year's vendor stalls. There was also an art exhibit featuring India-inspired paintings. As always, the event included henna artists, kids' activities, and interactive experiences that made it enjoyable for families. Young attendees had the opportunity to color a map of India, decorate their own diya, and take home a variety of coloring pages.

The festival served as a celebration of India's Independence Day, fostering community pride and cultural exchange. It was free to attend, welcoming people of all backgrounds to experience Indian art, music, dance, and food in a festive atmosphere at the heart of Fort Lauderdale.



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Florida Chapter Activities

### Pictures from India's Independence Day Celebration





# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Florida Chapter Activities



### THE ASSOCIATION OF INDIANS IN AMERICA

Florida Chapter



**India's Independence Day 2025**

Sunday, August 17, 2025

BROWARD CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Florida Chapter Activities





# 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.ianational.org](http://www.ianational.org)



# AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



# Thank You

Visit us at  
[www.aianational.org](http://www.aianational.org)

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