



AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



BETWEEN US

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

A Non-Profit Organization of Indians founded in 1967

www.aianational.org . Tax-Exempt ID 23-7192936

VOLUME I

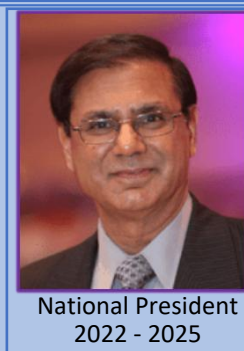
4th EDITION

Dec. 31st 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.

Continued on the next page



AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



- ❖ **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 & 75th 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 ACHEIVEMENTS

1. Minority Status to Asian Indian Immigrants in 1970's
2. Separate Enumeration of Asian Indians for the first time in US censuses an independent category in 1980
3. Representation before Congressional committees to testify for family reunification provision in the immigration bill.
4. Relief work for Natural Disaster in India and across the World.
5. "Project India" an ongoing project of AIA, has channeled Medical Equipment and Funds for Projects and HIV relief work in India.
6. Sushruta and charka Award – Instituted in 1993 to recognize and honor people of Indian origin in the field of Medicine and Health care.
7. Deepavali celebration for public: New York City: at South Street Seaport an ongoing event, since 1987, enjoyed by close to More than 100,000 people in tri state residents.
8. **Publication of "Ananya"**: A Portrait of India: in 1997 in collaboration with India Study Center of Stony Brook University, New York. A highly acclaimed 968-page book on Indian Civilization. Was released at the 50th anniversary of India's independence at a Banquet in Waldorf Astoria
9. Celebration of Diwali at the White house in 2003.
10. Recognition of Diwali by City Council in 2004 and suspension of alternate street parking in all the 5 borrows of NYC in 2005 onwards .
11. Official USPS Deepavali Stamp Unveiled In 2013 Resolution introduced in the House of Representatives advising USPS to issue a stamp commemorating Deepavali which lead to the final issuance of Deepavali stamp in OCT 20th 2016.
12. AIA celebrated Golden Anniversary on DEC 1st 2018.
13. Money raised and sent for construction of schools of India. Also sent Oxygen concentrators and Ventilators and PPE during Covid 19, donated \$ 26,000.00 to PM fund and Grocery kits to needy people.
14. On May 6th 2023, AIA celebrated 75th anniversary of India's Independence at an Honor Banquet at Terrace on the Park in Flushing Meadow, New York attended by dignitaries like Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and NYC Mayor Eric Adams.
15. Diwali is now declared as a public school Holiday in New York City 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 42nd 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 3rd, 2025 at a beautiful Venue CIPRIANI, 42nd St., Manhattan, NY
- ❖ AIA National Float in FIA (India Independence Day) Parade on August 17th, 2025 on Madison Avenue in Manhattan, NY

AIA Activities

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

New York Chapter Activities

- ❖ Oath Taking Ceremony of President of AIA-NY Chapter Beena Kothari and the Executive Committee held on March 20th, 2025
- ❖ Fundraising Gala at Pearl Banquet in Long Island held on June 1st, 2025
- ❖ AIA-NY hosted its first-ever Holi celebration in collaboration with Queensborough Community College (CUNY) on March 26th, 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 21st, 2025
- ❖ AIA-NY Deepavali Celebrations at the Overlook Beach in Long Island, on October 11th, 2025



AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



INSIDE

Illinois Chapter Activities

- ❖ Business Networking & Gala Night on November 9th, 2025
- ❖ India's Independence Day Celebrations held on August 12th, 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 9th, 2025

Madison Wisconsin Chapter Activities

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

Florida Chapter Activities

- ❖ India's Independence Day Celebration on August 17th, 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	Ashutosh Tewari, MD	Jagat Narula, MD
Dattatreyudu 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	Manoranjana 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
Manoranjana 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 Ram	Usha Kumar MD
Tirumala NJ Arshi	Vijay Sharma WI
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



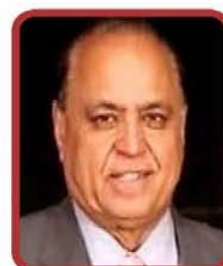
Santosh Pandey
Vice President - IL



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



Sharmishtha Dutta FL



Shashi Malik NY



Sujata Seth NY



Ramola Motwani FL



Usha Bansal M.D NY



Vijay Sharma WI



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



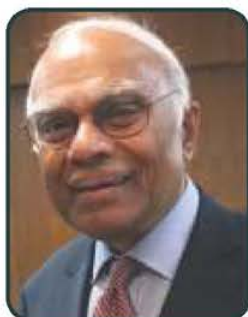
Arshi Duffley
President SNJ Chapter



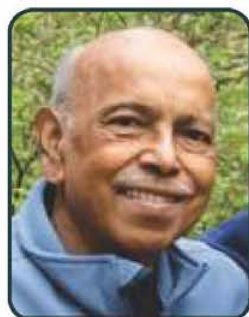
Vijay Sharma
President Wisconsin Chapter



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)



BUDDHADEV 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 3rd, 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

Secretary
Gunjan Rastogi

Treasurer
Gobind Bathija

Medical Council Chairperson
Dolly Manvar, MD

Medical Council Vice Chairs

Atul Kukar, DO, MBA
Pallavi Manvar-Singh MD

Aprajita Mattoo, MD
Pratichi Goenka, MD

Banquet Host Committee

Nilima Madan
Gunjan Rastogi
Gobind Bathija
Beena Kothari

Chairman Board of Trustees
Samin Sharma, MD

Board of Trustees

Vijay K. Kuchroo PhD
Dattatreyudu 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

Past National Presidents

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

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

Surendra K. Saxena (Late)
Dattatrey 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

Chapter Presidents

Jagdish Gupta MD NY
Lucy Pandey IL
Ram Tirumala NJ
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-mp-h-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 at 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 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 SUSHRUTA 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 3rd, 2025 at a beautiful Venue CIPRIANI, 42nd St., Manhattan, NY

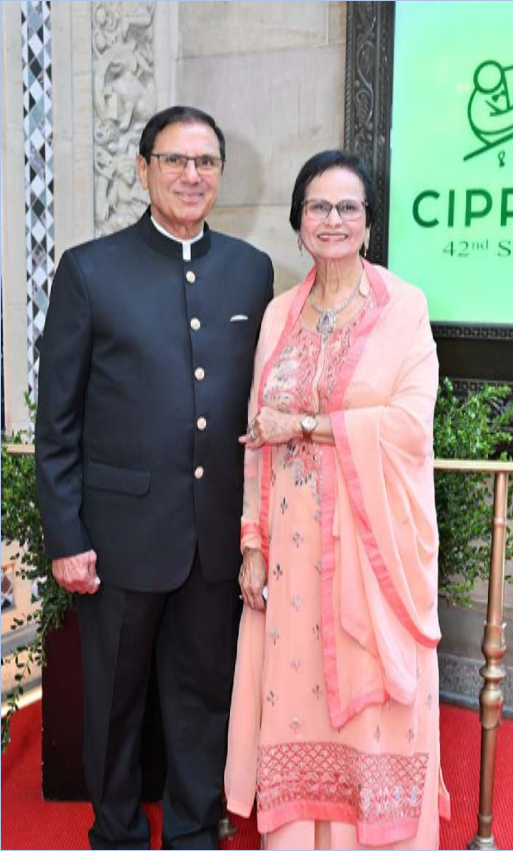




AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



AIA National Activities





AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



AIA National Activities





AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



AIA National Activities





AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



AIA National Activities





AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



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 Sathya, Honoree Dr Latha Chandran, National President Gobind Munjal, past National President Dr Buddhadev Manvar, and Medical Council Vice Chairs, Dr Pallavi Manvar Singh, Dr Pratchi Goenka, and Dr Aprajita Mattoo.

Pratchi 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 Sathya, 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 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) President Gobind Munjal, Honoree Dr Chethan Sathya, 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 Honor 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



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

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, it hopes to not only maximize the number of projects but also increase funding, quality, and diversity.



Dr Shuvendu Sen (right) receiving the award from President Gobind Munjal.



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

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.



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 Sathya, 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 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 (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



AIA National Activities

The **INDIAN PANORAMA**
EVER TRUTHFUL

NY/NJ/CT

FRIDAY MAY 16, 2025

19th
YEAR

17

CONTD 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 Sathya, Dr. Latha Chandran, and President Gobind Munjal

Chandran, Dr. Chethan Sathya, 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 Sathya 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 ablaze 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 मैडीकल कौंसिल अवार्ड गाला का भव्य आयोजन



बोर्ड ऑफ ट्रस्टीज के अध्यक्ष डा. समीन शर्मा ने सम्बोधित 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 चैरिटी चुनने की जरूरत है, जिसके माध्यम से भारत में जरूरतमंद लोगों तक पहुंचने के लिए दान को चैनल किया जा सके



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



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



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



मैडीकल कौंसिल गाला के दौरान सम्मानित डा. लता चंद्रन (2) सम्मानित डा.दीपक भट्ट (3) सम्मानित डा. शुर्वेदु सेन (4) गाला के दौरान दम्पति दिलकश अंदाज में।

न्यूयॉर्क। हम हिन्दुस्तानी

15 वर्ष के लम्बे अंतराल के उपरांत दि एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडियंस इन अमेरिका की ओर से मैडीकल कौंसिल अवार्ड गाला का आयोजन प्रतिष्ठित चंपरियानी 42स्ट्रीट में किया गया। यहाँ की सुंदरता एवं अद्भुत संगम ने मैडीकल कौंसिल अवार्ड गाला को चार-चांद लगा दिए। बता दें कि यह वार्षिक गाला दि एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडियंस इन अमेरिका के अध्यक्ष गोविन्द मुंजाल के नेतृत्व में किया गया था, जिसमें भारतीय मूल के चिकित्सकों एवं सर्जनों ने भारी संख्या में भाग लिया। इस अवसर पर मंच की अध्यक्षता करते हुए श्री मुंजाल ने कहा कि दि एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडियंस इन अमेरिका द्वारा आयोजित वार्षिक गाला को मुख्य उद्देश्य उन भारतीय मूल के चिकित्सकों एवं सर्जनों का सम्मान करना है, जिन्होंने अपने चिकित्सा क्षेत्र के करियर में

उत्कृष्ट उपलब्धियाँ हासिल की हैं। श्री मुंजाल ने समारोह को अन्तुडि विशेषता की ओर इशारा करते हुए कहा कि यह ए.आई.ए. मैडीकल कौंसिल अवार्ड समारोह ऐतिहासिक रूप से महत्वपूर्ण है क्योंकि ए.आई.ए. के युवा सदस्य नेतृत्व की भूमिका निभा रहे हैं और इस कार्यक्रम का आयोजन कर रहे हैं जबकि हम वरिष्ठ सदस्य उनका समर्थन कर रहे हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि आपको यह जानकर खुशी होगी कि इस समारोह में भाग लेने वाले 50 प्रतिशत लोग युवा पीढ़ी से हैं, इससे युवा पेशवरों को नेतृत्व की भूमिका निभाने में दिलचस्पी और पैदा होगी और संगठन को मजबूती मिलेगी। श्री मुंजाल ने कहा कि इस मैडीकल कौंसिल गाला को जबरदस्त सफलता ने अगली पीढ़ी के बहुत से लोगों को उत्साहित किया है और उन्होंने संगठन में शामिल होने और सदस्य बनने की रुचि व्यक्त की है। इस अवसर पर



श्री मुंजाल ने कहा कि हम अब हर 2 वर्ष में यह समारोह आयोजित करेंगे ताकि अधिक से अधिक संख्या में युवा सदस्यों को कार्यक्रम की कमान सौंपी जा सके। उन्होंने इस अवसर पर कहा कि मैडीकल कौंसिल की चेयर डा. डॉली मनवर तथा सभी 4 उपाध्यक्षों डा. अतुल कुकड़, डा. पल्लवी मनवर सिंह, डा. अपरजित मट्टू और डा. प्रतिवी गोयनका को इस मैडीकल कौंसिल गाला को सफल बनाने में उनकी प्रतिबद्धता और कड़ी मेहनत के लिए आभार प्रकट करता हूँ। इसके उपरांत बोर्ड ऑफ ट्रस्टीज के अध्यक्ष डा. समीन शर्मा ने सम्बोधित 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 चैरिटी चुनने की जरूरत है, जिसके माध्यम से भारत में जरूरतमंद लोगों तक पहुंचने के लिए दान को चैनल किया जा सके। उन्होंने कहा कि उन्होंने इस उद्देश्य के लिए 100,000 डॉलर की राशि अलग रखी गई है। इसके उपरांत सम्मानित करने का कार्यक्रम आरंभ किया गया। जिसमें चिकित्सा के क्षेत्र में उत्कृष्ट प्रदर्शन करने हेतु डा. दीपक भट्ट, डा. लता चंद्रन, डा. चेतन सत्या एवं डा. शुर्वेदु सेन को सम्मानित किया गया। बता दें कि सम्मानित शख्सियतों में डा. दीपक भट्ट एक शोधकर्ता हैं जबकि डा. लता चंद्रन एक शिक्षक हैं जबकि डा. चेतन सत्या पब्लिक हेल्थ एवं जन वॉयलेंस प्रोब्लेम के क्षेत्र में कार्य कर रहे हैं जबकि डा. शुर्वेदु सेन लेखक हैं। इसके उपरांत दि

एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडियंस इन अमेरिका के पूर्व राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष डा. निर्मल मट्टू के लाइफ टाइम अचीवमेंट अवार्ड से सम्मानित किया गया। बता दें कि डा. मट्टू दि एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडियंस इन अमेरिका के बोर्ड ऑफ ट्रस्टीज के पूर्व अध्यक्ष एवं ए.आई.ए. द्वारा प्रकाशित पुस्तक अनन्य: एक पोर्ट्रेट ऑफ इंडिया के सह-सम्पादक भी रह चुके हैं। इस समय डा. मट्टू इंडो अमेरिकन आर्ट्स कौंसिल के अध्यक्ष हैं तथा वे स्टेट यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ न्यूयॉर्क में सेंटर ऑफ इंडिया स्टडीज के अध्यक्ष भी हैं। इसके उपरांत डीजे कृष्णा के बेहतरीन संगीत रचनाओं से जहाँ दर्शकों को मंत्रमुग्ध कर दिया वहीं पर उन्हें नाचने हेतु विवश कर दिया। मेहमानों ने अपनी भावपूर्ण प्रस्तुतियों से डांस फ्लोर पर घूम मचा दी।

(शेष पृष्ठ 25 पर)



दि एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडियंस इन अमेरिका द्वारा मैडीकल कौंसिल अवार्ड गाला आयोजित

दि एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडियंस इन अमेरिका के पूर्व राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष डा. निर्मल मट्टू 'लाइफ टाइम अचीवमेंट' 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 कौंसिल गाला के दौरान डा. निर्मल मट्टू को 'लाइफ टाइम अचीवमेंट' अवार्ड से सम्मानित करते हुए (2) सम्मानित डा. चेतन सेतिया।



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



मैडीकल कौंसिल 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 कौंसिल गाला के दौरान उपस्थिति।



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 17th, 2025 on Madison Avenue in Manhattan, NY





AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



AIA National Activities





AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



AIA National Activities





भारत के 79वें स्वतंत्रता दिवस के उपलक्ष्य में फैडरेशन ऑफ इंडियंस एसोसिएशन द्वारा आयोजित

इंडिया डे परेड में एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडियंस इन अमेरिका की झांकी 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

भारत का 79वां स्वतंत्रता दिवस अमेरिका में विभिन्न स्थानों पर हर्षोल्लास के साथ मनाया गया। मैनहट्टन (न्यूयॉर्क) के मैडिसन एवेन्यू में फैडरेशन ऑफ इंडियंस एसोसिएशन द्वारा स्वतंत्रता दिवस के उपलक्ष्य में आयोजित इंडिया डे परेड ने जहां नया कीर्तिमान स्थापित किया वहीं पर परेड में एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडियंस इन अमेरिका द्वारा अपनी झांकी परेश की, जोकि विशेष आकर्षण का केंद्र बनी रही। बता दें कि एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडियंस इन अमेरिका एशियन इंडियंस का सबसे पुराना नॉन प्रॉफिट संगठन है, जिसकी त्रिवर्षी संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका में फैली हुई है। वैसे तो एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडियंस इन अमेरिका एशियन इंडियंस द्वारा प्रतिष्ठित साऊथ स्ट्रीट सीपोर्ट में दीपावली उत्सव मनाये के लिए अपनी एक अलग पहचान स्थापित की हुई है लेकिन यह

पहली बार था जब मैडिसन एवेन्यू न्यूयॉर्क शहर में एक सुंदर झांकी के साथ एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडियंस इन अमेरिका एशियन इंडियंस की ताकत का प्रदर्शन किया, जिसमें समूह पदाधिकारी एवं सदस्य तिरंगे के पट्टे एवं बैज के साथ तिरंगा झंडा लहरा रहे थे। इस झांकी में विशेष रूप से न्यूयॉर्क सीनेटर जॉन लिथु, न्यूयॉर्क में भारत के कंसुलेट जनरल अम्बेसडर विनया एस. प्रधान, डिप्टी कौंसिल जनरल अम्बेसडर विशाल हर्ष तथा कौंसिल फॉर कल्चरल अफेयर्स लसावंगा ग्यालत्सोन ने भाग लिया और समूह एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडियंस इन अमेरिका एशियन इंडियंस के पदाधिकारियों व सदस्यों का हौसला बढ़ाया। इस झांकी में युनाइटेड स्टेट ऑफ अमेरिका के 17 चैप्टरों ने भाग लिया, जिनमें न्यूयॉर्क, न्यू जर्सी, कनेक्टिकट, मैसाचुसेट्स, पेन्सिलवेनिया, मैरीलैंड, वर्जीनिया, साऊथ कैरोलिना,

हम हिंदुस्तानी
www.humhindustaniousa.com

जॉर्जिया, फ्लोरिडा, इंडियाना, इलिनोइस, विस्कॉन्सिन, मिसौरी, मिनेसोटा, टेक्सास तथा कैलिफोर्निया इत्यादि शामिल रहे। बता दें कि 2 घंटे से अधिक समय तक झांकी दौरान जोशीले देशभक्ति के गीत गाए और अपनी मातृभूमि का प्रणाम किया। यहां पर ये भी उल्लेखनीय है जैसे-जैसे परेड मैडिसन एवेन्यू में आगे बढ़ रही थी, 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। इस अवसर पर एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडियंस इन अमेरिका एशियन इंडियंस के नैशनल प्रेजीडेंट गोविन्द मुंजाल ने सम्बोधित करते हुए कहा कि यह ट्राई स्टेट क्षेत्र से बड़ी संख्या में लोगों को आकर्षित करने हेतु किया जा रहा है ताकि वे दीपावली महोत्सव के आयोजन को देख सकें। जिसका समापन शानदार आतिशबाजी के साथ होगा। उन्होंने कहा कि दीपावली महोत्सव में निःशुल्क भोजन, कई बुध, सांस्कृतिक गतिविधियों के अलावा कला एवं शिल्प के साथ-साथ कई तरह की बच्चों की खेलों का भी आयोजन किया जाएगा। उन्होंने कहा कि बेबीलोन शहर का ओवरलुक बीच लांग आइलैंड में गर्मियों का एक बेहद ही लोकप्रिय जगह

है और एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडियंस इन अमेरिका एशियन इंडियंस द्वारा आयोजित 38वां दीपावली महोत्सव विशेष आकर्षण का केंद्र होगा। फैडरेशन ऑफ इंडियंस एसोसिएशन द्वारा आयोजित इंडिया डे परेड में अमेरिका के विभिन्न संगठनों ने बड़े ही जोश-खरोश के साथ भाग लिया तथा लोगों ने परेड में 38वीं स्ट्रीट से लेकर 12 ब्लॉक तक मैडिसन एवेन्यू के दोनों ओर से भव्य स्वागत किया तथा हर तरफ भारत माता की जय के जयघोष गुंजायमान रहे थे। न्यूयॉर्क शहर के मेयर एरिक एडम्स एवं न्यूयॉर्क में भारत कौंसिल जनरल अम्बेसडर विनया श्रीकांत प्रधान सहित बॉलीवुड हस्तियों रश्मिका मंदाना एवं विजय देवरकोंडा के साथ परेड को हरी झंडी दिखाई तथा समूह भारतवासियों को भारत के 79वें स्वतंत्रता दिवस की बधाई दी।



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 grassroots 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 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 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



"American Association of Physicians of Indian origin (AAPi) had a powerful weekend of celebration, service, and community, as we honored India's 79th Independence Day in the heart of New York City," said Dr. Amit Chakrabarty, President of AAPi. "We were fortunate to be part of and led the 'I Love My India Float Parade' – Celebrating Our Heritage from Raipath to Times Square. Azadi Ke Rang, AAPi Ke Sang."

Dr. Amit Chakrabarty, President of AAPi along with several Executive Committee Members, Dr. Hetal Gor, Chair of AAPi BOT;

Regional Directors, members of BOT from different parts of the country joined the over a hundred thousand fellow Indian Americans to be part of the largest India Day Parade, organized by the Federation of Indian Associations (FIA).

Earlier, on Saturday, August 16th, AAPi organized a Press Conference and Leadership Retreat at the Indian Consulate – an exclusive dialogue with AAPi leaders and Corporate Leaders, eloquently moderated by Dr. Hetal Gor, AAPi BOT Chair.

(Photos courtesy: AAPi and India in New York/Facebook)



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)



Consul Pragma 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)



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)



AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



AIA Activities

AIA Project India Fundraising function on July 27th, 2025



THE ASSOCIATION OF INDIANS IN AMERICA, INC.

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

PRESENTS



SONGS FOR THE SOIL BY *FALU*

GRAMMY® Award Winner

IN SUPPORT OF **NGO GLOBAL VIKAS TRUST, INDIA**

Transforming Lives of Farmers



“Songs of the Soil” is a vibrant musical journey blending beloved Bollywood tunes, traditional harvest songs, and regional folk music. This soulful evening celebrates India’s cultural roots and honors the spirit of its farmers through melody and rhythm.



**SUNDAY
JULY 27, 2025**



**05:00 – 06:30 PM (COCKTAIL RECEPTION)
06:30 PM (DOORS OPEN)
07:00 – 09:00 PM (PROGRAM FOLLOWED BY DINNER)**

GOLDSMITH ATRIUM

Tilles Center of Performing Arts at LIU 720 Northern Blvd, Brookville, NY-11548 **AMPLE FREE PARKING**



Let's Grow Prosperity Together.

LIMITED AVAILABILITY | FOR TICKETS & MORE INFO

516 317 0146

Smiti Khanna
skhanna50@hotmail.com

516 817 4601

Sunny Thakkar
Sneharts@outlook.com

917 903 9478

Asmita Bhatia
Asmi.a.bhatia@gmail.com

sneharts.com
aia-ny.org

MEDIA SPONSORS



The South Asian Times
excellence in journalism

The Indian Eye
NEWSPAPER

The INDIAN PANORAMA



PROMOTIONAL PARTNER





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.





AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



AIA Activities

AIA Desi Next Raas Garba on October 3rd, 2025

**देसि
NEXT**

DESINEXT & AIA PRESENT...

GARBA RAAS NIGHT

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

ASA MAI TEMPLE BALLROOM
80 E. BARCLAY ST. HICKSVILLE, NY 11801

LIVE MUSIC · DINNER INCLUDED
DANDIYA FOR SALE

Space is Limited! **Buy your tickets!**

\$25 Adult
\$15 Child (under 12)
5 and under FREE

www.desinext.org
DesiNextNY@gmail.com
[@desi.next](https://www.instagram.com/desi.next)

Click Here

SCAN ME

www.givebutter.com/garba2025

For more information:
Pratichi Goenka (631) 745-5659
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 30th, 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 20th, 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
1 550 FRANKLIN AVE, MINEOLA, NY 11501

RSVP by email at - 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

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



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

19th 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 Ganesha Vandana performance by Hamsaasya 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 Madaan
- Treasurer: Dr. Bal K. Gilja
- Secretary: Dr. Sharad Kothari
- Members-at-Large:
 - Anju Sharma, Bhavana 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 1st, 2025



The Association of Indians in America
New York Chapter



38TH

Deepavali Benefit Gala

June 1, 2025

Sunday 5.00pm onwards

Pearl Banquet

276 W Old Country Rd, Hicksville, NY 11801



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

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

\$175
PP



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





New York Chapter Activities

AIA-NY hosted its first-ever Holi celebration in collaboration with Queensborough Community College (CUNY) on March 26th, 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





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 ALA-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 ALA-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, ALA-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, ALA-NY presenting recipients of 2025 scholarships, along with Harsh Vyas - Vice President, ALA-NY, Dr. Christine Mangino - President, Queensborough Community College, Mr. Gobind Munjal - President, ALA-NEC, Mrs. Smiti Khanna, - Founder ALA-NY Deepavali, and Mrs. Beena Kothari - President ALA-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

3

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).

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.

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.

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.

SMALL DONATIONS MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE



help where it's needed most.

SupportDisasterRelief.org

ad
COUNCIL



New York Chapter Activities

**Diwali Celebration at Westbury Middle School for the 1st time on
October 21st, 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**



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.





New York Chapter Activities





New York Chapter Activities

**AIA-NY Deepavali Celebrations at the Overlook Beach in Long Island,
on October 11th, 2025**





New York Chapter Activities

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





New York Chapter Activities





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





New York Chapter Activities

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 Ramayan were presented by Pt S.N. Charka of East-West School of Dance. Seen above is the Ramayan shrupanakha 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.

NEWS INDIA TIMES

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



Making the audience dance to the Garba beats.

The crowd danced to the garba beats of Manpreet Komal and Amit Sharma from Rang de Bollywood in San Francisco.

Six people were honored for their achievements and contributions to community and society: Justice Karen Gopee, Dr Gurmohan Syali, Dr Abhay Malhotra, Sunita Sadhnani, Ruma Devi, and Kamal Sabri.



Honorees Sunita Sadhnani, 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, 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.

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.

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.



New York Chapter Activities



February 28, 2026
From 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM
The Hindu and Hindu Cultural Performing Arts Center
3800 14th Avenue, 4th Floor, Suite 401, Long Island City, NY 11101
info@deshtideash.com • www.deshtideash.com



Inspiring news about India and Global Indians

[HOME](#) [INDIA NEWS](#) [BUSINESS](#) [BOLLYWOOD](#) [MORE](#) [OUR ADVERTISERS](#) [E-MAGAZINE](#) [CLASSIFIED](#)[TRENDING](#) [INDIA US NEWS](#) [INDIAN-AMERICAN](#) [OPERATION SINDOOR](#) [Special Edition](#) [E+](#)[SPECIAL EDITION](#) [MAHA KUMBH](#)[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 CHANDRASEKAR - OCTOBER 15, 2025 NO COMMENTS 2 MINS READ

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

[READ MORE](#) [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. Charka 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 Sadhanni 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 9th, 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

MILLENNIUMBANK

Lucy Pandey
President
C: 847-913-4993

Salil Mishra
Chairman
C: 312-388-1952

Nilabh Dubey
Vice President
C: 630-670-8740

Santosh Pandey
VP - National
C: 773-771-7687

Shabana Rahman
Event Coordinator
C: 847-496-3172

Maliha Afreen
Secretary
C: 630-550-0697

Hina Trivedi
Past President
C: 630-951-0012

Manoranjan Mishra
Vice Chairman
C: 847-560-1390

Om Dhingra
Trustee
C: 630-886-9290

Anil Sharma
Trustee
C: 630-854-0097

Prem Mehrotra
Trustee
C: 847-942-8833

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



AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



Illinois Chapter Activities

Pictures from Business Networking & Gala Night





Illinois Chapter Activities





Illinois Chapter Activities





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





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





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.





South New Jersey Chapter Activities

Pictures from Gandhi Art & Writing celebration held at Princeton University on Sunday, November 9th, 2025

The AIA-SJ chapter held its annual Gandhi Art & Writing celebration on Sunday, November 9th 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 26th, 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



zelle

We Thank All Our Sponsors



Mr. Narinder& Kamlesh Saini

Manjit Singh Edgerton WI

JRSS Corporation. Priya Gali

**Sundeep Singh & Surjit Kaur Manhani
Owner- BP Gas station, New Glarus(WI)**





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
AMERICA (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

Way Forward Food Pantry donation
3,251 lbs.



Second Harvest Food Bank Donation:
1007 lbs





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 13th , 2025





AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



Madison Wisconsin Chapter Activities

India Day 2025 Celebration on August 16th, 2025



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

Join us for Celebrating

India Day 2025

78th Independence Day

16TH AUGUST

10:00AM TO 1:00PM

**100 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD
MADISON, WI 53703**

• 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 (dawashti2008@gmail.com)

Sponsored by:

 **RETIREMENT INCOME PLANNING LLC**
- RETIREMENTS AND WEALTH MORE SHORT TERM -
NATIONWIDE & BOUNDARY
6088071100

 **Sunitha Murthy**
American Heart Association

 **Amber**
INDIAN CUISINE

 **PHANI PALETY**
WELCOME REALTORS & HOMEOWNERS

 **INDIA HOUSE**
701 S. GARDEN RD. MADISON, WI 53703
Production & Services: PHEM 308-428140-490

 **Shell**
Raju Bal Tara

 **FreshMart**
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 5th, 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
MINERAL POINT RD
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 7th 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. →



SCAN ME

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."

**Questions about this event: Contact :Verona Sen-
ior Center at 608-845-7471 or email Geeta Shar-
ma @ aiamadisonsenioclub@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 13th, 2025





AIA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



Florida Chapter Activities

India's Independence Day Celebration on August 17th, 2025



THE ASSOCIATION OF
INDIANS IN AMERICA

FLORIDA CHAPTER

INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE

India's Independence Day

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17th, 2025 | 11:30-4PM

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

Cultural Show @ 1 PM

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

#INDIADAYSFL



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.



AIA_SFLORIDA@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 Or gobind.bathija@gmail.com

Website: www.aianational.org



Thank You

Visit us at
www.aianational.org
or
Scan below QR code

