The Association of Indians in America New York Chapter

Presents

Benefit Gala













20₂₅ - Beena Kothari

Dr. Shashi Shah



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PRESIDENT MESSAGE

AIA-New York Award Night & Deepavali Celebration Good evening, esteemed guests, community leaders, friends and family

It is with immense pride and heartfelt joy that I welcome you all to this unforgettable evening our AIA-New York Award Night, held during the radiant celebration of Deepavali.

Tonight is more than a ceremony. It is a convergence of tradition and excellence a moment to honor the achievements that uplift our community and to celebrate the enduring light of our shared heritage.

Deepawali reminds us that light triumphs over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, and hope over despair. And tonight, we are surrounded by that light reflected in the accomplishments, dedication and service of our honorees and community.

Let me begin by offering my warmest congratulations to all our award recipients. Your brilliance, your commitment to excellence and your contributions in fields ranging from medicine, science, finance, and engineering to the arts, academia, and business are not only a source of pride they are a beacon for the next generation.

You **embody the values AIA-New York holds dear**: integrity, perseverance, service and unity. You are more than professionals you are role models. On behalf of the entire AIA-New York Community, we thank you for your impact and leadership.

I would also like to extend my **deepest gratitude** to every member of our extended community. To our **generous sponsors**, **advertisers**, **media**, **volunteers and well-wishers** thank you for your steadfast support. Your patronage has been instrumental in making tonight's gala a reality.

To our Executive Committee, past presidents, board members and volunteers your tireless efforts behind the scenes have brought this vision to life. I am deeply appreciative of your commitment and passion.

This year marks a special milestone: the **38th Deepavali Celebration** and for the **first time**, we are going to be gathering in **Long Island**. This event is not just a celebration for today it is a gift to the generations that follow. It is our responsibility to keep these traditions not only alive but thriving.

And as we celebrate, we must also look forward with intention and planning. Sustaining this cultural mission demands ongoing support financial, voluntary and communal.

Tonight, I humbly ask for your generosity in supporting our fundraising initiatives. Your contributions will help us:

- -Host future cultural and educational programs
- -Provide scholarships to deserving students
- -Expand our community outreach services and
- -Preserve the rich, vibrant heritage that binds us together as Indian Americans.

This is not just a donation it is an investment in the future of our culture and community.

Let us honor our awardees not only with applause but by following their example: by giving, supporting and building together.

Let this Deepavali be a reminder of the values that light our path forward. May it ignite within us a renewed sense of purpose, pride and unity. Thank you for your trust, your presence and your unwavering support. And again, congratulations to our extraordinary honorees.

Beena Kothari

President, AIA-NY -2025-2026

AIA-NY 2025 Advisor & Chairman, Board of Trustees - AIA

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, It is my honor and privilege to welcome you to the 2025. Deepavali Benefit Gala, hosted by the American Indian. Association, New York Chapter. On this special night, as we celebrate the Festival of Lights a symbol of triumph, renewal, and unity we also celebrate the strength and spirit of our community. Deepavali reminds us that even in the darkest of times, light prevails. And tonight, that light shines through each of you our supporters, our partners, and most importantly, the individuals who dedicate themselves to uplifting others. This evening, we are proud to honor several outstanding members of our



community individuals whose service, leadership, and compassion reflect the very best of who we are. Whether through education, healthcare, advocacy, or cultural preservation.

Their contributions inspire us all and illuminate the path forward.

- Karthik Gujja MD, MPH
- "Excellence in Cardiac & Endovascular Intervention Award"
- Devendra Shrivastava, MD
- "Excellence in Nephrology & Medical Leadership Award"
- Hetal Gor, MD
- "Excellence in OB-GYN Award"
- Navkeeta Sikka
- "Youth Ambassador"
- Ramesh C. Gupta, PhD
- "Excellence in Synthetic Organic Chemistry"

In the past year, our association has made meaningful strides in expanding youth programs, supporting small businesses, and promoting cultural awareness across generations. These successes are not ours alone they are shared by every person in this room who has stood beside us. Tonight's benefit gala is not only a celebration but a call to action. The funds we raise will support scholarships, wellness initiatives, and programs that ensure our cultural legacy continues to thrive. To our sponsors, volunteers, and all of you here tonight thank you. Your generosity keeps our mission alive and our community strong. Wishing you and your families a joyful and blessed Deepavali.

Thank you.

Samin K. Sharma, MD Chairman **Samin K. Sharma, MD**, is a renowned interventional cardiology expert well known for performing high-risk complex coronary interventions (more than 1,500 interventions per year) with an extremely high success rate (greater than 99 percent) while achieving an extremely low major complication rate (less than 0.2 percent). He has received the prestigious two-star designation (significantly lower than expected mortality) numerous times from the New York State Department of Health, and the Governor's Award of Excellence in Medicine in 1996. He served on New York State's Cardiac Advisory Board from 2004–2016.

Under Dr. Sharma's leadership, The Mount Sinai Hospital Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory has become one of the safest and busiest centers in New York, providing state-of-the-art cardiac and interventional care for all types of simple and complex heart patients. Dr. Sharma specializes in the nonsurgical treatment of mitral and aortic valve disease, including transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) and MitraClipTM procedures (TEER). He has been dubbed "master of the Rotablator" and is regularly featured on national and local TV (recently on CBS, TV Asia), and in newspapers and magazines including Newsday, Newsweek, The New York Times, The New York Post, Forbes, The Wall Street Journal, The New York Daily News, The Washington Post, New York Magazine, India Abroad, and India Today.

He has received numerous awards:

2024 Lifetime Achievement Award by Federation or Indians in America (FIIA) Trailblazer Award by Indian-American Arts Council (IAAC), RANA AAPI World Health Congress

2023 Master Operator by India Live Conference

2021-2022 Chief Guest, Times Square, Diwali Celebration

2018 Chairman Board of Trustees, Association of Indians in America (AIA)

2015 Honorary Master of Science PhD degree by Rajasthan University Jaipur India

2014 Distinguished Physician Scientist by AAPI-QLI for excellence in Medicine

2011 Ellis Island Medal of Honor

2011 American Heart Association Achievement in Cardiovascular Science & Medicine Award

2011 American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) Physician of the Year

2010 AIA for Excellence in Medicine

2003–2007 and 2010–2024 Best Doctors by New York Magazine

2008–2024 Super Doctors; 2007 Jacobi Medallion Award by The Mount Sinai Hospital

2007 Physician of the Year by The Mount Sinai Hospital

2000 Simon Deck Award for Outstanding Teacher of the Year

He has authored more than 410 papers and 16 book chapters in the field of coronary interventions, structural heart disease and safety of percutaneous interventions. He is also a

philanthropist, and The Mount Sinai Hospital Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory is named the Dr. Samin K. Sharma Family Foundation Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory. Dr. Sharma has been instrumental in getting a \$5 million philanthropy grant from the Lohia Family to name him Director of the newly created SP & Seema Lohia Cardiovascular Clinical Institute. Dr. Sharma has built a 250-bed heart hospital (EHCC) in his native Jaipur, India, to provide the best care to all patients irrespective of their financial and social status. To expand medical reach to more needy patients in Jaipur, EHCC now has two additional hospitals (Eternal Hospital Sanganer and Jaipuria Hospital). His live monthly webcast series, CCC Live Cases (www.ccclivecases.org), started in 2009, and has an audience of more than 25,000 viewers each month in 179 countries. He also enjoys teaching other cardiologists and improving patient outcomes with his annual Complex Coronary Cases (CCC) Symposium and numerous other major scientific meetings, conferences, and live relays.

GALA CHAIR MESSAGE

Celebrating Legacy | Honoring Excellence | Illuminating the Future

Message from the Gala Chair

Dear Esteemed Guests, Friends, and Members of the AIA–New York Community,

It is with immense pride and heartfelt joy that I welcome you to this year's Benefit Gala, hosted by the New York Chapter of the Association of Indians in America (AIA), commemorating our 38th public Deepawali celebration.

Tonight, we do more than celebrate a festival of lights we honor a legacy built over generations, shaped by resilience, compassion, and purpose. The AIA, one of the oldest Indian American organizations in the United States, has long stood as a beacon of cultural pride, community service, and civic leadership. Through our work in education, health, disaster relief, and humanitarian advocacy, we strive to uplift not only Indian Americans, but the communities we call home.

This evening is a tribute to the pioneers whose vision created this platform, to the leaders who have carried our mission forward, and to the volunteers, supporters, and partners who breathe life into our cause. My deepest gratitude goes to the Gala Committee, our Board of Trustees, and every individual who helped shape this extraordinary evening.

As immigrants, we are grateful to the United States—our adopted homeland—for the promise of opportunity and the freedom to thrive. Our dual identity as Indian Americans is a powerful source of strength. It enriches our contributions and deepens our commitment to both heritage and progress.

Tonight, we shine a spotlight on honorees whose stories exemplify excellence, service, and transformative leadership. Their journeys inspire us to do more, give more, and lead with purpose. We thank them for raising the bar and lighting the way forward.

As the lamps of Deepawali glow around us, let us allow that light to guide our shared future—one rooted in unity, compassion, and an unwavering belief in the power of community.

Thank you for being part of this celebration. May tonight's gala leave you inspired, connected, and recommitted to the enduring values that define who we are.

With deepest gratitude,

KANAK GOLIA

President, Perfume Center of America Board of Directors, NewYork–Presbyterian



FINANCE CHAIR MESSAGE

Dear esteemed members and friends of AIA-New York,

It is with immense pride and gratitude that I, as the Chair of AIA-New York, invite you to join us in celebrating a monumental milestone - the 38th Deepawali celebration in Long Island, a first-ever achievement!

This spectacular occasion transcends generations, embracing not just our present but also our future. As we illuminate the darkness with diyas, we rekindle our commitment to preserving our rich cultural heritage. The flame of tradition, passed down through generations, burns bright, guiding us toward a vibrant future.

I humbly request your active participation in this joyous celebration. Your contributions, whether through volunteer work, generous donations, or other forms of support, will empower AIA-New York to continue its mission. Together, we will ensure the perpetuation of our cultural values, fostering a strong sense of community and belonging.

As we embark on this momentous journey, prudent long-term financial planning paramount. sustained support instrumental in helping us navigate the future, make informed decisions, and transform our vision into reality. I invite you to share your invaluable thoughts, innovative ideas, constructive feedback. collectively weave a tapestry of impact, integrity, and tradition, creating a brighter future for generations to come.

Thank you for your unwavering support, trust, and commitment to AIA-New York.

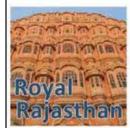
Heartiest Congratulations to the AIA-New York Community!

To the dreamers and difference-makers, I offer my heartfelt accolades. Your leadership is a legacy that will inspire generations. Tonight, we celebrate each and every one of you. Your achievements are a testament to your dedication and perseverance.

To the honorees, I extend my warmest congratulations. You are the shining stars of our community, illuminating the path for others.

Cheers to each and every one of you!
AIA-NY 2025 Finance Chair
Haridas Kotahwala
IDCA President
Owner, Royal India USA Inc.
President, Indian Diamond & Color

stone Association (IDCA)



ly Prakesb Bhandari

In 1964, Haridas Kotahwala, son of a leading germinne dealer of Jaipur in Bujasthan, staned traveling the world in search of opportunities to expand his business. He went to the Middle flast, Europe and finally New York, where he had gone for the world trade fair and found that he had eached his destination. In 1968, Haridas opened one of the first Indian owned genistone and chamond offices in US.

Haridas' father late Gokaldas Kotahwala came from a family of traditional gewelers. Kriganally the family had an emercial manmanual manual manual

Currently, Harshas Kotabbusha is guiding his two sone Alisk and Vishal, who manage a diversified Jewery, diamond and colored stone operation Royal India USA loe, New York, They have manufacturing aperations in three countries and sell their products to over 40 countries.

Haridas has brought an equal amount of

passion and dedication to serving his conmunity. He englishly travels to Jaipur and recently eelebrated his 50th wedding armiversary with Sharda Kotahwala at Jaipur's Hotel Marriot and this golden evening was smeeded by the luminates of Jaipur and also from New York, Munchai and other places. On their respective 50th wedding anniversaries, Haridas Kotahwala & Jellow jewster, Kamal Chand Serana, each donated 50 beyeles and 50 conforters to Jaipur foot maker Bhagwam Mahnever Viklang Society. In 1984, he became one of the founding

In 1984, he became one of the founding members and first vice president of the Indian Diamond & Colored stone Association (IDCA). He is the president of the Biggest body of the NRI Rajastham the Rajasthan Association of North America (RANA).

"RANA is a social body committed to the Rajasthanis and we have 359 members. We are trying to bring sugether the Rajasthanis spread all over North America. We are trying to set up a Rajasthani fibram in Massapequi in Long Island at a cost of \$2 million. This will cover 40,000 segune first area and would serve as our cultural center. The negatiations to acquire a synangeque is so mad soon we will be able to finalize the deal," says Kosthowski.

He said RANA was established with six



des, som here with his children and grundchildren, is the eldest of four brothers and leads the family in the true sense of a Hhada patriorch.

Haridas Kotahwala

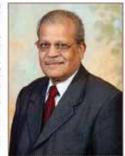
A pioneer of gemstone business in the US

vision to preserve and promote culture, values and beritage of Rajasthan and create a special oasis in the Indian American community. Knobbreala has received many acceledes

Konshwala has received many accolades throughout his diharitors career and was honored by RANA for his social achievements. In 2004 he was honored by World Business Forum with pre-funation from New York Assembly and US Congress for his dedication to his commonity. In 2008, he received the Pioneer Award from the IDCA for leading the Indian Jewelets commanity.

Haridas is also the chairman of Navika Capital Group L.C., a seal estate company with investment of over \$1100 million. This company is wholly owned and managed by Indians in U.S.

A prood grandfather of seven grandchildeer, he continues to be proud of his famiity and his extended family of the clamond and coloristone community and the



Haridas Kotubrealu, chief of Royal India U.S., Inv., in New York, He is also President of RANA, which is on the verge of raising a Rajaethon Bhavan in Long Island.



Haridas recently celebrated his 50th wedding austiversary with wife, Sharda Kotoliwak at Jaipur's Hotel Marriot and this golden evening was attended by the luminaries of Jaipur and also bigwigs from New York, Mumbai and other places.

CHARLES E. SCHUMER

NEW YORK

Democratic Leader

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3203June 1, 2025

Dear Friends:

Please accept my warmest greetings as you gather with the Association of Indians in America (AIA) to celebrate its Deepavali Benefit Gala Event. I am grateful for the opportunity to recognize the impactful work of AIA, its leadership, and its members on this wonderful occasion.

Since its inception in 1967, the Association of Indians in America has remained steadfast in its mission to promote the welfare of America's Indian immigrant community and support their integration into American society. AIA has prioritized uniting immigrants by a common bond of Indian heritage and American commitment through cultural and educational activities that bring people closer together and strengthen the relationship between the two nations. Additionally, AIA encourages Indian immigrants to participate in political awareness and activism to safeguard their rights by voting. Together with Project India, AIA has been successful in initiatives such as voter registration drives, disaster relief efforts, and community outreach, which have all improved the well-being of the Indian-American immigrant community throughout our state. AIA has also worked closely with Queensboro Community College to provide scholarships to its community members so that individuals can gain skills that are crucial to the American workforce. The initiatives within the AIA have made the American dream a reality for thousands of Indian immigrants that have enriched our New York communities for decades.

On behalf of all New Yorkers, thank you for your hard work and dedication on behalf of the Indian-American community throughout New York State. Your work has improved the quality of life for thousands of immigrants and has strengthened the relationship between the United States and India for decades. I know that the Association of Indians in America will continue this spectacular work for years to come. Best wishes for a wonderful event.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Schumer United States Senator

Laules Schumen



ALBANY 12224



KATHY HOCHUL

June 1, 2025

The Association of Indians in America

Dear Friends:

It is my pleasure to send greetings to everyone gathered for the Association of Indians in America – New York Chapter Deepavali Benefit Gala.

Since its founding, the Association of Indians in America (AIA) – New York Chapter has supported the interests of Indians throughout the country while fostering cultural education and pride. By encouraging members to participate in educational and outreach activities while inviting people of all backgrounds to enjoy vibrant Indian festivities, AIA promotes widespread success and diversity.

Today, you come together to celebrate your Deepavali Benefit Gala and look ahead to the future, where you will continue to serve people of Indian descent with commitment and compassion. On behalf of all New Yorkers, I am grateful for your dedication to creating a more prosperous state.

Best wishes for an enjoyable event.

Governor

THOMAS R. SUOZZI

MEMBER OF CONGRESS 3RD DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TAX

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT





June 1, 2025

Association of Indians in America

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my greetings to all who are gathered here for the 58th Annual Association of Indians in America Benefit Gala. I would also like to extend my special congratulations to this year's honorees:

Karthik Gujja, MD, MPH Excellence in Cardiac & Endovascular

Ramesh C. Gupta, PhD Excellence in Synthetic Organic Chemisty

Hetal Gor, MD, FACOG Healthcare Leadership & Excellence in OBGYN & Surgical Aesthetics Devendra Shrivastava, MD Excellence in Nephrology & Medical Leadership

Navneet Sikka Youth Ambassador

The Association of Indians in America (AIA), the oldest national organization of Asian Indians, was founded to promote the well-being of the Indian American community. Since its founding, AIA has served as a vital conduit for cultural exchange, celebrating important festivals and national milestones from both India and the United States. By fostering political engagement and civic awareness, AIA has empowered Indian Americans to actively participate in the democratic process.

Again, congratulations to this year's honorees and best wishes for a successful event.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Suozzi Member of Congress

Thomas R. Surga

TRS:wh



STATE OF NEW YORK OFFICE OF THE STATE COMPTROLLER 110 STATE STREET ALBANY, NY 12236

June 1, 2025

Beena Kothari, President Association of Indians in America – NY Chapter

Dear Friends:

Greetings to all those gathered this evening for the Deepavali Benefit Gala hosted by the New York Chapter of the Association of Indians in America. Since 1967, AIA has worked to support the advancement of Indians in America, to honor the rich heritage of the Indian subcontinent, and to

strengthen the community through civic and philanthropic activities.

Congratulations are due to this year's honorees. Their leadership, service and accomplishments are truly worthy of your recognition.

As the oldest grassroots organization of Asian Indians in the country, the Association of Indians in America is guided by the democratic principle of "one member, one vote." AIA-NY has empowered the community through voter registration drives, raising funds for disaster relief, celebrating important festivals and providing scholarships through a partnership with Queensborough Community College. The dedicated officers, board and members of the Association of Indians in America are honoring cherished traditions and helping create a more vibrant and inclusive society.

Best wishes for a joyful celebration and continued success.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. DiNapoli State Comptroller





CHAIR
NYC EDUCATION
COMMITTEES
EDUCATION
FINANCE
HIGHER EDUCATION
JUDICIARY
RULES
TRANSPORTATION

June 1, 2025

The Association of Indians in America AIA-NY Chapter

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I extend my warmest congratulations on the landmark occasion of the Association of Indians in America's 38th Deepavali Benefit Gala at the Pearl Banquet in Hicksville.

The Festival of Lights is a joyous time around the world, and especially here in New York City, where communities from across the city gather to celebrate the spiritual victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance. In recognition of this important celebration, the New York State legislature has recognized Diwali as a school holiday in New York City, making a significant step toward honoring the rich cultural diversity of our communities. As the city lights up with diyas and festive spirit, may this holiday bring joy, peace, and renewed hope to all.

On behalf of the New York State Senate, I commend all attending the 38th Deepavali Benefit Celebration and for contributing to the City and State of New York. Thank you to all those who are taking time to share in your heritage, cultures and traditions and for embracing the diversity that makes New York the greatest city in the world. Thank you all for your tremendous contributions to our community. Please accept my best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,

gh C.Z.

भारत का प्रधान कौंसल न्यू यार्क



CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA NEW YORK

May 8, 2025

Message

I am delighted to learn that the Association of Indians in America (AIA) - New York Chapter is organizing Deepavali Benefit Gala on June 1, 2025 in Hicksville. On this occasion, AIA (NY) would be honoring achievers from the Indian-American community that have made significant contributions to the community. I deeply appreciate this gesture. It helps us showcase the contributions and achievements of vibrant diaspora to the Indian-American society. It also supports us in nurturing and preserving Indian values and traditions in the society.

For over 36 years, the AIA has been hosting Deepavali and have made efforts to promote awareness of Indian culture, customs and significant contribution of the Indian-American community through their several community programmes, events and cultural activities.

Your efforts to recognize members for their contributions to the success of not only the Indian American Community but also of the Community at large are appreciated and on behalf of Indian Consulate, I extend my warm congratulations to all the achievers in various fields.

I would also like to convey my sincere thanks to the AIA for its initiatives, including scholarships for Queens Community College students and 'Project India'.

I wish the Gala all success.

(Binaya S. Pradhan)



COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Edward P. Romaine

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the 1.5 million residents of Suffolk County, I would like to congratulate the Association of Indians in America – New York Chapter for their work in integrating Indians into mainstream American Society through political engagement and philanthropy.

I also extend my congratulations to those honored today for their contributions to their respective fields. It is your achievements that bring everyone here today to help raise funds for the philanthropic mission of the AIA.

The United States and India have a shared vision for the world – one built on democracy, peace and deepened commercial ties. Your activism helps to facilitate this shared vision for future generations.

May we continue to make the world a more peaceable place inclined to recognize the rights of all people.

Sincerely,

Edward P. Romaine

Suffolk County Executive

Edward F. Romaine

Office of Legislator Seth I. Koslow



NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE 1550 Franklin Avenue, Suite 242 Mineola, N.Y. 11501 PHONE: (516) 571-6205 FAX: (516) 571-0291

EMAIL - SKoslow@NassauCountyNY.gov



June 1, 2025

The Association of Indians in America New York Chapter

To the leaders, members and supporters of AIA-NY:

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Association of Indians in America (AIA-NY) New York Chapter's annual benefit gala at The Banquet Pearl!

For nearly five decades, AIA-NY has worked tirelessly to support Indian Americans and aid in their integration into the fabric of the Empire State's rich and diverse cultural tapestry. Your efforts to support immigrants upon their arrival to the United States are truly admirable, and I applaud your efforts to assist new Americans, promote civic engagement, philanthropy and community outreach through Project India, and foster the continued embrace of India's rich traditions and heritage around the world.

I join you in congratulating this evening's distinguished honorees, including Devendra Shrivastava, M.D.; Hetal Gor, M.D; Karthik Gujja, M.D. M.P.H., Ramesh C. Gupta, Ph.D.; Hetal Gor, M.D. and Youth Ambassador Navneet Sikka for their outstanding achievements in their fields and the tremendous contributions to our greater society.

Congratulations to AIA-NY Chapter President Beena Kothari, Gala Chair Kanak Golia and Finance Chair Haridas Kotahwala for spearheading this outstanding event in the heart of Hicksville – a burgeoning hub of Long Island's vibrant Indian diaspora. I wish you continued success in all you do to enrich and uplift lives and stand at the ready to assist with your future endeavors.

Have a wonderful evening!

Sincerely,

Seth I. Koslow

Ranking Member, Committee on Public Safety

Nassau County Legislator, District 5



COMMITTEES:

Chair, HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES
Vice Chair, SENIOR AFFAIRS
Vice Chair, VETERANS
FINANCE
MINORITY AFFAIRS



NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

THEODORE ROOSEVELT EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING 1550 FRANKLIN AVENUE, MINEOLA, NEW YORK 11501 (516) 571-6217 • rosewalker@nassaucountyny.gov

June 1, 2025

Ladies & Gentlemen:

It gives me great pleasure to extend my best wishes to you as you celebrate the Deepavali Benefit Gala!

You have had a positive impact on the local community through your efforts to promote the welfare of Indians in America and support their integration into mainstream American society.

I am honored to offer my heartfelt congratulations on this momentous occasion and wish the honorees continued success in all their future endeavors!

The strength of an organization lies in its leaders, members, and supporters. Each of your leaders, members and supporters are to be commended for their involvement, dedication and commitment to the Association of Indians in America.

Sincerely,

ROSE MARIE WALKER Legislator, District 17

Lose Marie Walker



OFFICE OF THE
NASSAU COUNTY COMPTROLLER
240 Old Country Road
Mineola, New York 11501



Hon. Elaine Phillips

June 1, 2025

Dear Friends,

It is a pleasure to congratulate the Association of Indians in America (AIA), NY Chapter, on your 2025 Deepavali Benefit Gala.

Founded to support Asian immigrants in building brighter futures, AIA has become a vital force for cultural celebration, community service, and civic engagement. Your continued efforts—through initiatives like Project India and your scholarship program—empower individuals to pursue education, opportunity, and meaningful impact.

Tonight's gala also celebrates exceptional individuals whose contributions uplift our community. Congratulations to this year's honorees: Dr. Karthik Gujja, Dr. Hetal Gor, Dr. Devendra Shrivastava, Navneet Sikka, and Dr. Ramesh Gupta.

Thank you, AIA, for your leadership and lasting impact. Wishing you continued success!

Sincerely,

Elaine R. Phillips

Elaine Phillips

Nassau County Comptroller

JOSEPH SALADINO SUPERVISOR



OFFICE OF THE TOWN SUPERVISOR 54 AUDREY AVENUE OYSTER BAY, NEW YORK 11771 516-624-6350



June 1, 2025

Dear Friends,

My colleagues on the Oyster Bay Town Board and I are proud to join in celebrating the AIA-NY (Association of Indians in America) Deepavali Benefit Gala, an amazing event that celebrates community service and cross-cultural exchange with a distinguished gathering of exemplary residents whose efforts make our Town and world a better place.

With a growing number of people of Indian heritage choosing the Town of Oyster Bay as their home, I have appreciated the efforts of AIA-NY to provide them with a welcoming bond and unity, a collective forum and definitive course of action to make our communities stronger. The importance of this work cannot be overstated. Your efforts further the social welfare of Indians here in this country and to help them become a part of the mainstream of American life. You also provide a pathway to facilitate participation in enriching charitable, educational and cultural activities.

We wish tonight's honorees and everyone at AIA-NY a very happy and joyous Gala and we look forward to all your incredible achievements in the future. You should be proud to be a part of a special organization that advances the greater good and makes a true difference in the lives of others. Thank you for embodying the hopes and aspirations of immigrants united by the common bond of Indian heritage and American commitment, representing the world's largest democracy and the United States-the oldest democracy.

Yours truly,

Joseph Saladino Town Supervisor



TOWN OF NORTH HEMPSTEAD OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

200 Plandome Road Manhasset, NY 11030 Tel: (516) 869-7646 Fax: (516) 627-1714



Town Clerk RAGINI SRIVASTAVA

June 1st 2025

It is a pleasure to congratulate the Association of Indians in America (AIA), N.Y. Chapter, on the celebration of the Deepavali Benefit Gala 2025.

Your tireless efforts in promoting cultural exchange, community engagement, and celebrating the rich heritage of Indian culture in America are truly commendable. This Gala is not just an event; it is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and unwavering commitment of the committee members and supporters over the years.

I am confident that the recognition of tonight's honorees, whose contributions make a positive impact in the community, will inspire many more. Thank you, AIA, for your lasting impact in reinforcing the spirit of togetherness and the strength of networking that benefits our vibrant and culturally rich heritage.

I extend my warm regards on this momentous occasion and wish AIA and this year's honorees continued success in all their future endeavors.

Ragini Srivastava

Town Clerk

Town of North Hempstead

Ragini Seivastana



Message from Supervisor Rich Schaffer



It is my distinct pleasure to extend heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to the Association of Indians in America – New York Chapter – on the occasion of your 2025 Benefit Gala.

As Town Supervisor of Babylon, I proudly recognize the AIA for its longstanding commitment to community service, cultural enrichment, and civic engagement. Since its founding in 1967, AIA has worked tirelessly to empower the Indian-American community while fostering cross-cultural understanding and unity. Your efforts to honor outstanding individuals who exemplify excellence in medicine, science, and leadership—such as this year's distinguished honorees are commendable and inspiring.

Events like this Gala not only celebrate achievements but also reinforce the strength that diversity brings to our region. The Town of Babylon deeply values the contributions of our Indian-American residents, who are an integral part of our shared success and vibrant community fabric.

On behalf of the Town of Babylon, I thank the AIA for its dedication and congratulate this year's honorees: Dr. Karthik Gujja, Dr. Hetal Gor, Dr. Devendra Shrivastava, Dr. Ramesh C. Gupta, and Youth Ambassador Navneet Sikka. May your Gala be a joyous celebration and a resounding success as you continue your important work.

With gratitude and respect,
Rich Schaffer
Supervisor
Town of Babylon





Dear Dad,



Congratulations on this well-deserved honoree award – your dedication and integrity continue to inspire us all and fill us with immense pride

From Misha Gujja(Daughter) Rishabh Gujja(Son) Hima Yalamanchili(Spouse)









HONOREE

"Excellence in Cardiac & Endovascular Intervention Award"

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

Board Certified in Cardiology, Interventional Cardiology and Endovascular Intervention. Karthik Gujja, MD, MPH, is a board-certified physician specializing in general cardiology, interventional cardiology, endovascular intervention. He currently treats patients at Long Island Heart&Vascular Specialist offices located in Bronx, Long Island, Queens, and



Brooklyn. He is the Associate Director for Endovascular program at Mount Sinai Hospital.

Dr. Gujja graduated from India's Mahadevappa Rampure Medical College in Gulbarga, Karnataka, in 2003. He later completed an internal medicine internship at Long Island College Hospital in Long Island, New York, as well as fellowships in cardiology and interventional cardiology at Beth Israel Medical Center in New York. In addition to this comprehensive training, Dr. Gujja completed a third fellowship in endovascular intervention/peripheral at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York.

Highly skilled and educated, Dr. Gujja strives to provide his patients with the best possible care as a longtime cardiovascular disease specialist. Dr. Gujja has undergone extensive training to treat cardiovascular-related conditions, such as art failure, heart attack, congenital heart problems, and coronary artery diseases.

Academic:

Director for Endovascular Program, Mount Sinai South Nassau Associate Director for Endovascular Interventions at Cardiac Catheterization laboratory Mount Sinai Hospital

Private:

Director of Cardiac Services and Endovascular Services (Outpatient Endovascular Interventional

Long Island Heart and Vascular Specialist: Westbury, Queens and Brooklyn Empire City Heart and Vascular Specialists: Brooklyn and Bronx

Graduated in 2014 from Mount Sinai, I started both Academic Affiliations with Mount Sinai doing Research, Presiding Symposium and Performing Live Endovascular cases In Past 9 years, Simultaneously Started Private practice in Brooklyn and expanded to all boroughs of NYC along with large extension in Long Island Created a robust practice with couple in-office Interventional Suites in Long Island and NYC Now looking forward to creating In-office full size Cardiac Imaging suite and Ambulatory Surgical Center











HONOREE

"Youth Ambassador"

Navneet Sikka, Senior Vice President at Citigroup

Navneet Sikka, a distinguished Senior Technology Controls Manager and Senior Vice President at Citigroup, brings over 21 years of expertise in the financial services sector. Her leadership and exceptional contributions have set her apart in the industry. Aside from her role at Citigroup, Navneet is a passionate advocate for community service and empowerment, exemplified through her active involvement in various initiatives.



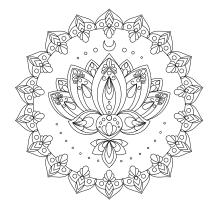
Navneet's impact extends beyond her professional sphere; she holds a significant board position as Chair of the American Punjabi Society Women's Council, where she plays a pivotal role in promoting cultural awareness and empowerment within the community. Her dedication to organizing numerous community service events — such as cancer awareness walks, blood donation drives, and cancer seminars — reflects her commitment to making a positive difference in society.

In addition to her philanthropic endeavors, Navneet's entrepreneurial spirit shines through her diverse investments in multiple ventures. Her ability to balance a successful career in a multinational corporation with her entrepreneurial pursuits underscores her versatility and determination.

Navneet is not only a leader in her professional field but also a mentor and advocate for career development, particularly for women in the industry. Her involvement in programs like the "Get to Know Series" at Citigroup and her dedication to mentoring individuals showcase her passion for nurturing talent and fostering inclusivity in the workplace.

As a devoted wife and mother of two daughters, Navneet values work-life balance and actively guides others in navigating their career journeys. Her belief in effecting positive change through personal growth and community engagement is evident in her unwavering dedication to creating a more inclusive and progressive world for all.

Navneet lives by the motto: "Leading with purpose, empowering through action." Her journey continues to inspire those around her to strive for excellence, serve the community, and lead with compassion.











Congratulations



Congratulations, Dad on this prestigious honoree award! Your unwavering dedication and leadership are truly commendable and an inspiration to all of us.

Best wishes from Branda Shrivastava, Maneesha Shrivastava Daughter in law Suparana Shrivastava, Gautam Shrivastava











HONOREE

"Excellence in Nephrology & Medical Leadership Award"

Dr. Devendra Shrivastava, M.D.

Dr. Devendra Shrivastava is truly an accomplished and respected figure in the medical community. As the Medical director of Dialysis and Nephrologist at The Brooklyn Hospital center and Interfaith Medical center one Brooklyn system. He has dedicated his career to advancing nephrology care. His leadership extends to Brooklyn Methodist hospital also, where he has played a pivotal role in shaping medical services.



Beyond his clinical expertise, Dr. Shrivastava has been a Visionary leader, founding Empire ACO LLC and NYCC IPA, where he serves as CEO. His commitment to education is evident in his mentorship of numerous medical residents, fellows and medical students over the years. His influence also reaches the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin Queens and Long Island (AAPIQLI), where he currently holds the position of President, and MPMAANA, where he has served as President and remains an active Board Member.

On a personal level, Dr. Shrivastava is deeply connected to his family. His wife, Dr. Branda Shrivastava, is a Neonatologist at Good Samaritan Hospital in Bayshore. His children, Maneesha and Gautam, have pursued impressive careers in finance and hematology-oncology, respectively. His daughter-in-law, Suparna, is a lawyer, adding to the family's legacy of excellence.

His contributions to medicine, leadership, and community service make him a truly remarkable honoree.







Our Mom, Dr. Hetal Gor

Mom, we are endlessly proud of you not just because of your many accomplishments, but because of the love, strength, and dedication you show every single day. You do so much for us as a mother, and you give just as much of yourself to your patients, to underserved communities, and to those who don't always have a voice.

You've shown us what it means to work with purpose, to lead with compassion, and to stand up for what's right. Whether you're in the hospital, on a panel, at a community event, or simply spending time with us at home, you bring your full self thoughtful, powerful, and loving to everything you do.



The way you balance your professional life, public service, friendships, and family is nothing short of inspiring. You make it look effortless, even though we know how much work, sacrifice, and care it takes. Your footsteps are not just hard to follow they're a path of excellence, strength, and heart that we can only hope to walk one day with the same grace.

You truly rock at everything you do and we feel so incredibly lucky, honored, and proud to call you our mom.

With all our love,

Abha, Anya, and Akil



HONOREE

"Healthcare Excellence in OBGYN & Surgical Aesthetics"

Dr Hetal Gor, MD, FACOG

Dr Hetal Gor , is board certified Obgyn, practicing in Englewood, NJ. Dr Gor was born & brought up in bombay, India . Dr Gor did her medical training in India and her OBGYN training from India , UK and USA. Dr Gor has multiple degrees like MD obgyn from India , MD obgyn & FACOG from USA , FCPS, DGO, DNB from India.

Dr Gor has won multiple awards as a top doc, top 10 Gyn surgeon award, compassionate doctor award, patients choiceaward, international women award for balancing career and family, International Academy Award 2017, Rising star award 2016, Nari Udyami Award 2018, Top five Hundred Gujarati world wide, CAIT Award for Women Entrepreneurship 2021. she has authored multiple articles on webMD and peer journals. Dr Gor was instrumental in starting free

healthfairs in Bergen county and sits on multiple non profit and charitable organizations. Dr Hetal Gor is Medical Director and owner of BetterUmedical Spa, Ceo of Healthmedia LLC and

medical director of Women's own obgyn . Dr Gor sits on New Jersey's state wide advisory commission on minority and multicultural health.

Dr Gor had her own medical talk show on Indian cable channel SINCE 2010. She also had a Political radio show now Dr Gor has her own podcasts and you tube channel.

Dr Gor is the president / founder of Bergen Indian Medical Association , President /Founder of US chapter of FOGSI (Federation of OBGyn society of India)

Past President of AAOGI.(American association of obgyn of Indian origin.).

Regional director for AAPI (NJ/PA) 2022-2023

Chair (Elect) Board of Trustees AAPI (2025-2026)

Board of Trustees AAPI 2023-2026.

Dr Gor is Chair of North NJ chapter of IAWEA(Indian American Women Entrepreneurs Association) Dr Gor is Board of Trustees of Bergen Performing Arts Center in Englewood where she brings Indian art and artists to showcase Indian Heritage.

Recipient of Congressional Award for tireless efforts in healthcare, community development, and uplifting minority women

Dr Gor is political activists and women's rights advocate. Dr Gor has worked on issues affecting minority women, small businesses owner, physician & healthcare related, patient advocacy, immigrants rights, domestic violence and women empowerment.

Inspite of being a very respected and talented surgeon ,obgyn , successful entrepreneur, women's rights champion and political activists, avid art lover , her pride and joy are her 3 grown up children who are champions in their own way.

Congratulations to Dad

Thank you for being the unwavering foundation of our family and an inspiration through your compassion, hard work, and wisdom. We are deeply proud of all you've achieved and grateful for the love and values you've passed on to us.



from Joyce Sonu Ishan Diya Sunny Mansi Aarav Serena Kiran Gupta





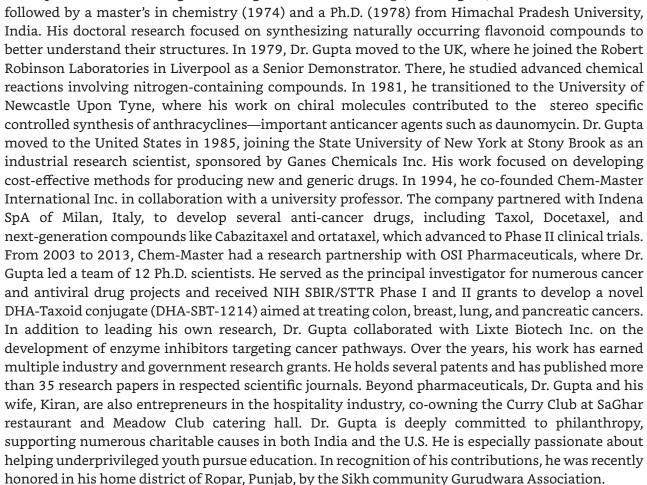
HONOREE

"Excellence in Synthetic Organic Chemistry"

Dr. Ramesh C. Gupta, PhDA Life in Science, Family, and Giving Back

Dr. Ramesh C. Gupta is the President of two pharmaceutical companies Chem-Master International Inc., based in Hauppauge, New York, and R\&S Chemicals in Kannapolis, North Carolina. He is an expert in designing and synthesizing complex molecules used in the treatment of various diseases, especially cancer.

Dr. Gupta earned his undergraduate degree from D.A.V. College, Chandigarh,



He has been happily married to Kiran, his life partner of 46 years, who has been his greatest support throughout his journey. Together, they have two children: Joyce, a director at Barclays, and Vikas, a neurologist specializing in epilepsy in Virginia. Dr. Gupta is also a proud grandfather to Ishan and Diya Sethi, and Aarav and Sareena Gupta. His extended family including son-in-law Sonal Sethi and daughter-in-law Mansi Gupta brings him great joy.





NATIONAL PRESIDENT MESSAGE

Shubh Deepavali!

On behalf of the National Executive Committee of the Association of Indians in America (AIA), I, as a National President of AIA, extend greetings and welcome all of you to this New York chapter's Benefit Gala organized for its iconic Deepavali Festival to be held on October 11, 2025. I am sure under the leadership of AIA-NY Chapter President Mrs Beena Kothari, this event will be a huge success.

As we all know, Diwali is now celebrated all over America, from the White House to the State Capitols. Diwali has been declared as a State Holiday in the 4 States of the USA; New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Texas. We all and the whole Indian community are now working towards getting the Diwali festival declared a national holiday.



As a National President of AIA, I and my National Executive Committee are serving our second two-year term 2024 & 2025. We are building on the achievements of our first term of two years, which have included:

- * Encouraging younger members to take leadership roles Medical Council Awards Continuing to make more younger members and mentoring them to take leadership roles. Recently involved them by giving leadership roles in our very successful AIA prestigious Medical Council Awards Gala held on May 3rd, 2025 at a beautiful venue CIPRIANI 42nd Street NYC. Glad to report that we restarted the Medical Council Awards after a gap of 15 years.
- * Revived National AIA's Newsletter titled "Between US" after a gap of over 20 years to enable better communication between members and the chapters and have since continued.
- * Besides activating and rejuvenating AIA's existing chapters, we are adding new chapters in the State of California, Minnesota, Georgia and Texas.
- * Updated and finalized the AIA Life Membership List. Thanks to the current Membership List Chair Sushma Kotahwala as well as Mr. Surinder Rametra for working so hard on the Life Membership list for the last decade or so.
- * For the First time in over two decades, life membership funds have been invested and its income has been distributed to chapters in proportion to number of members. Thanks to Investment committee headed by Rohit Vyas.
- * Helping the needy seniors in collaboration with an established 25 years old organization NIAASC Collaborated with National Indo American Association for Senior Citizens (NIAASC) in organizing their 35th Annual Conference held on November 9th, 2024 at Kerala Center in Elmont, NY for the benefit of the Seniors.
- * On May 6, 2023, AIA National hosted a very successful Honor Banquet to Celebrate the 75th anniversary of India's Independence at Terrace on the Park in Flushing Meadow Park attended by Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, NYC Mayor Eric Adams in addition to the Consul General of India Mr. Randhir Jaiswal.

I am grateful to my executive team, and all our chapters for supporting me in achieving our vision and what we have collectively accomplished and seek their cooperation for the rest of my term. My sincere thanks to all AIA members for entrusting me to lead this prestigious organization to greater heights during my 4 years term.

AIA was founded on August 20, 1967, it is the oldest grass root national organization of Asian Indian Immigrants in the United States, fostered on the democratic principle of "one member one vote" with chapters and membership spread across the United States of America. Following our motto, 'Indian Heritage and American Commitment', AIA's growth and eminence have matched and paved the way for the success of Indians in America in all spheres, including public life. With former Vice President, six Congressmen, and numerous Fortune 500 company CEOs, Indian Americans have made their mark in their adopted land and made their motherland proud. I would like to congratulate all the Honorees on their well-deserved honor. We again congratulate our New York Chapter President, Mrs Beena Kothari, and her dedicated team for organizing a very successful Benefit Gala and wish them well for the iconic Deepavali Festival on October 11, 2025.

Wishing you all a very Happy and Prosperous Deepavali! Gobind Munial

National President AIA.







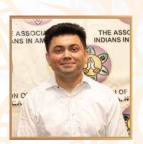
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



BEENA KOTHARI
President



ANITA THAKKAR Vice-President



HARSH VYAS
Vice-President



NILIMA MADAN Vice-President



TARUN WASIL, MD Vice-President



BAL GILJA, MD Treasurer



SHARAD KOTHARI, MD Secretary



JAGDISH GUPTA, MD Immediate Past President











MEMBER AT LARGE



ANJU SHARMA



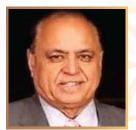
BHAVANA SHARMA



DEEPAK BANSAL



DEEPIKA MODI



GOBIND BATHIJA



JAY SINGH



JYOTI GUPTA



KIRAN REDDY PARVATHALA, MD



NARENDRA LODHA, MD



NARINDER KAPOOR











MEMBER AT LARGE



NAVNEET AGARWAL



NICK GARG



NUTAN ROONGTA



ROOPAM MAINI



SANJU SHARMA



SATNAM SINGH PARHAR



SUMITA SENGUPTA, PHD



SURIN MANAKTALA



SWATI VAISHNAV



USHA BANSAL, MD











PAST PRESIDENTS



HARISH THAKKAR 2019-2022



GOBIND MUNJAL 2017-2018



SUNIL MODI 2013-2016



RANJU BATRA 2011-2012



SUSHMA KOTAHWALA 2009-2010



SANTOSH KHERA 2007-2008



ARISH K. SAHANI 2005-2006



URMILESH ARYA, MD



HARI KHERA 2001-2002



SHASHI SHAH, MD 1999-2000



NALINI SHAH 1997-1998



ARUN BHATIA 1995-1996



ANIMESH GOENKA 1993-1994



SMITI KHANNA 1991-1992



RAJENDRA BANSAL, MD 1989-1990



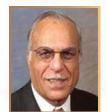
SHAMIN SHARMA, MD 2019-2022



SAMIR DATTA, MD 1985-1986



GOPAL KHANNA 1982-1983



NARINDER KUKAR, MD 1976-1978











CHAIRMAN BOARD OF TRUSTEES



SHAMIN SHARMA, MD Chairman Board of Trustees

ADVISORS



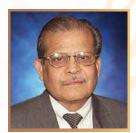
CHINTU PATEL
Advisors



DATTATREYUDU NORI, MD Advisors



DIPAK NANDI, MD Advisors



HARIDAS KOTAHWALA Advisors



KANAK GOLIA Advisors



NAVEEN SHAH Advisors



NEETA JAIN, PHD Advisors



RAVI BHOOPLAPUR Advisors









Desi Next







Atul Kukkar



Pratichi K. Goenka, MD



Pallavi Manvar-Singh



Aprajita Mattoo MD,

Youth Ambassador



Jassi Anand



Manvi Oberoi



Shilpa Jhurani



Rajkamal Kaur



Viral Vyas



Supreet Sidhu



Nivea Kothari









American Punjabi Society feels proud and
Congratulates Navneet K. Sondhi, Chairperson APS
Women's Council for being recognized as
YOUTH AMBASSADOR*

for her Inspirational Leadership & Outstanding
Accomplishments for Contributions to the
Community by Association Of Indians In America at
Pearl Banquet on Sunday. June-1st 2025.



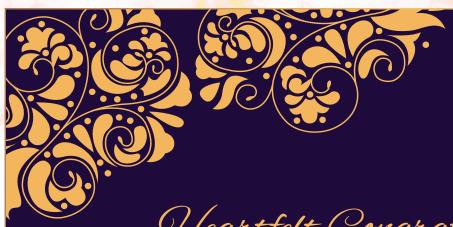
GARY S SIKKA
PRESIDENT

Mohinder S.Taneja Sr. Vice President VPS Sikka Gen.Secretary

VICE PRESIDENTS:

Ajayvir S. Sondhi Paul S.Bindra RPS Narang Jaspal S.Arora

APS WOMENS ADVISORY COUNCIL



Heartfelt Congratulations!

To all the esteemed honorees, We are proud to recognize your outstanding achievements!



Special congratulations to

- Navneet Sikka, Youth Ambassador
- Dr. Devendra Shrivastava AAPI -QLI President

And we extend our warmest congratulations and best wishes to:

President AIA-NY and Team

From:

Surinder Rametra

Nirmala Rametra







HOLI CELEBRATION COLLABORATED WITH QCC MARCH 26, 2025





The Association of Indians in America - NY

YOU ARE INVITED TO A



CELEBRATION
MARCH 26, 2025 12 - 2 PM
AT
THE GREAT LAWN
QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE, CUNY

IN COLLABORATION WITH ASSOCIATION OF INDIANS IN AMERICA
JOIN IN CELEBRATING HOLI WITH FRIENDS, MUSIC, FOOD, AND MORE. SPRING
CELEBRATION AND COLORS AWAIT. ENJOY THE CELEBRATION WITH STAIN RESISTANT
COLORS. EVENT STARTS AT 12PM, FOLLOWED BY LIGHT REFRESHMENTS SPONSORED BY
AIA AND QCC STUDENT GOVERNMENT AND STUDENT CLUBS.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!













HOLI CELEBRATION COLLABORATED WITH QCC MARCH 26, 2025



















HOLI CELEBRATION COLLABORATED WITH QCC MARCH 26, 2025















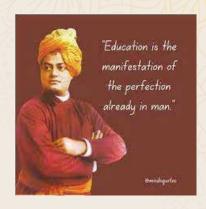
CONGRATULATIONS

And Best Wishes

Association of Indians in America (N.Y.) President, Mrs, Beena Kothari and her team

For her outstanding Community services over years & salute to well deserved Honorees of the day

Dr, Devendra Shrivastava, MD
Dr, Hetal Gaur, MD
Dr, Karthic Gujja, MD
Mrs, Navneet Sikka
Mr, Ramesh C Gupta Ph D





Life is a festival only to the wise

Arya Family Foundation Urmilesh & Yashpal Arya Mukul, Nidhi, Vishal, Amit, Katyaani



Aryan & Anika









The Late Dr. Saroj Shah

Founder, Indian Unit at Parker Jewish Institute
"A Visionary Leader and Dedicated Humanitarian"





In Loving Memory Dr. Saroj Shah

Founder, Indian Unit at the Parker Jewish Institute

With profound sadness and deep respect, we honor the legacy of Dr. Saroj Shah, whose visionary leadership established the Indian Unit at the Parker Jewish Institute. Her dedication to culturally sensitive health care and unwavering commitment to the well-being of our community, have touched countless lives.

Dr. Shah's compassionate spirit and her vision ensured that members of our Indian community could receive care that honored their cultural heritage and traditions, while maintaining the highest standards of clinical excellence.

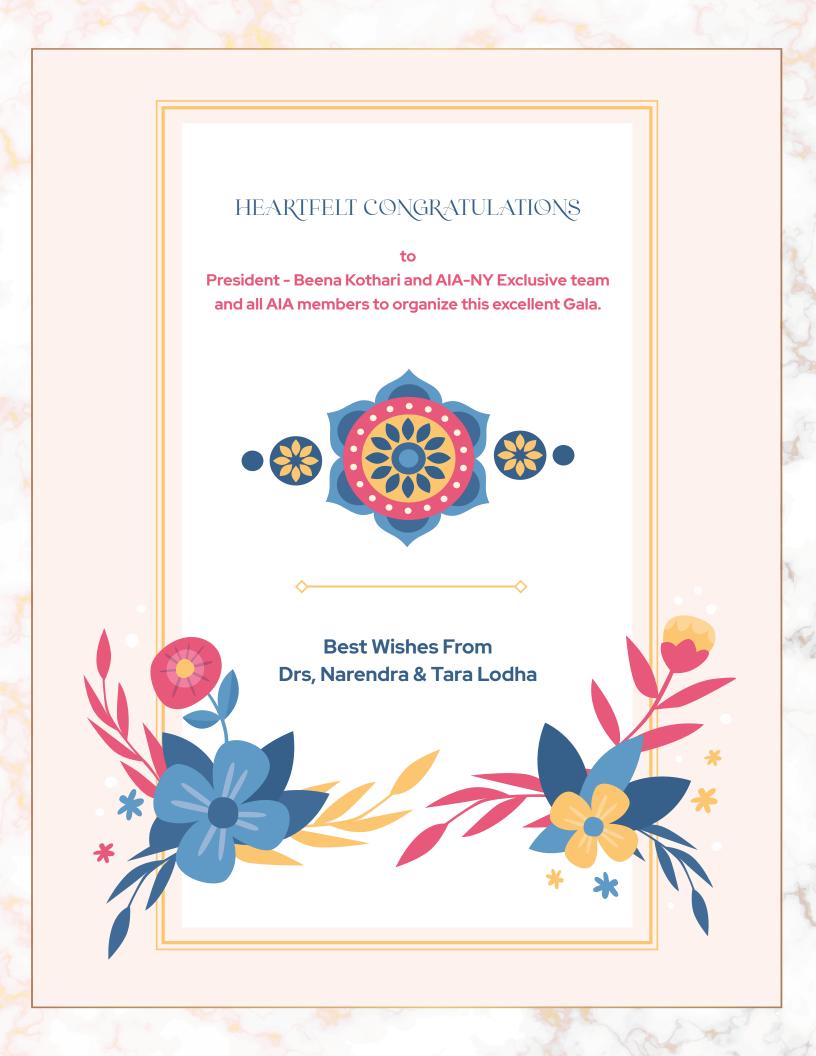
Though she is no longer with us, her legacy lives on in the continued work of the Indian Unit, in the staff she mentored, and in the countless residents whose lives she improved. As we gather to support this vital community resource, we remember Dr. Shah with gratitude and pledge to carry her vision forward.

Her wisdom, kindness, and dedication will forever inspire us as we continue the important work she began.

"In a gentle way, you can shake the world." — Mahatma Gandhi



Post-Acute Care | Sub-Acute Care | Short-Term Rehabilitation | Long-Term Care | Hospice Care | Palliative Care | Inpatient/Outpatient/Home Dialysis | Home Health Care | Medical House Calls | Senior Care Management | Center for Research and Grants | 271-11 76th Avenue New Hyde Park, NY 11040 | 877-727-5373 | parkerinstitute.org



Dr. Jagdish K. Gupta, MD, FACP, FACG

Immediate Past President, AIA-NY Chapter

Good evening and a warm welcome to the 10th Deepavali Benefit Gala Celebration of the Association of Indians in America – New York Chapter (AIA-NY).

As we gather to celebrate this vibrant festival, we also reflect on the enduring legacy of AIA-NY. Since its founding in 1967, AIA-NY has steadfastly promoted the welfare and advancement of the Asian Indian community in the United States. Through our cultural initiatives and



public outreach, we have helped bridge cultures and foster greater understanding and appreciation not only within our own community, but also across the diverse communities of New York and beyond.

It was a privilege to serve as President during 2023–2024. I am deeply thankful to the past presidents, advisors, and dedicated members who supported me with trust and encouragement. With a committed team by my side, we were able to build upon AIA-NY's rich legacy and contribute meaningfully to its continued success.

Some of the highlights from our tenure include:

- Collaborating with Mayor Eric Adams, Assemblywoman Jennifer Rajkumar, and various community organizations to establish Diwali as a public school holiday in New York City in 2023.
- Hosting the 36th Deepavali Celebration at South Street Seaport, featuring for the first time ever a grand fireworks display fully funded by AIA-NY, without any corporate sponsorship.
- Welcoming Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer as Chief Guest at our Annual Benefit Gala on June 2, 2024 an honor for the Indian American community.
- Celebrating Deepavali 2024 aboard a Manhattan cruise, attended by over 400 guests, with fireworks lighting up the night sky from Liberty State Park.
- Forming a cultural and educational partnership with Queens Community College (CUNY) to support student scholarships and promote cultural exchange.

As we honor distinguished members of our community tonight and celebrate the message of "light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, and hope over despair," I invite each of you to carry this spirit forward. Let us light diyas not only in our homes, but also in our hearts kindling hope, compassion, and resilience.

May this Festival of Lights bring peace, joy, and prosperity to all. Let us continue to uplift one another through kindness, unity, and purpose. Happy Deepavali!

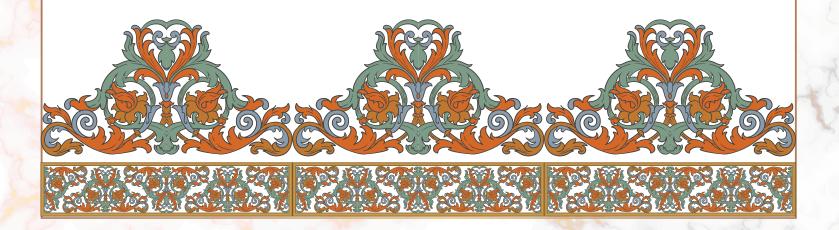
Special Felicitations to Our Esteemed Honorees of this Evening.

Devendra Srivastava, MD - President of AAPI-QLI
Hetal Gor, MD, FACOG - Chair-Elect BOT of AAPI- National
Karthik Gujja, MD, MPH - Director. Endovascular Program, MSH
Ms. Navneet Sikka - Senior Vice President - Citi Group
Ramesh C. Gupta, Ph D - President, Chem-Master International, Inc



Heartiest CONGRATULATIONS to BEENA KOTHARI JI & HER EXCELLENT DEDICATED TEAM- 2025

Jagdish & Meena Gupta and the entire GUPTA FAMILY.



Lifestyle and Health/Cancer - Modern Science is Finally Catching Up

Tarun Wasil, MD – Practicing Medical Oncologist and Hematologist with New York Cancer and Blood Specialists

Clinical Assistant Professor, Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell

It is common knowledge that cancer is a common disease. In the US, 2,041,910 new cases and 618,120 deaths are expected in 2025. That amounts to 5,600 new cases and 1,700 deaths daily. There is an increase in cancer incidence worldwide and Indians everywhere, vegetarians and/or vegans are not getting spared. Lifestyle seems to be a big factor. Three factors come to mind when we talk about lifestyle:

- Chronic stress is extremely important here but remains underestimated because of the difficulty in quantifying it this can be countered by mindfulness
- Nutrition is 2nd important factor but remains underappreciated can be modified
- Third factor is physical activity/exercise which remains underutilized simple to change



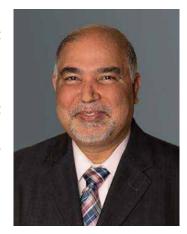
- Decrease in ability to fight infections and weakened immune system
- Increase in low grade inflammation
- A decrease in telomere length and increased risk of cancer

Mindful techniques reverse these adverse changes to baseline. Leading a purposeful/meaningful life result in the healthiest genome

Western diet is blamed for the most part, and Mediterranean diet is considered an example of a healthy diet. Indian diet of our grandparents has several advantages, but we have forgotten. Going back to the plant favored, fiber rich diet full of fresh vegetables and some fruit, seeds and nuts (if not allergic), lentils, and legumes with some fasting (calorie restriction) during the week all are highly beneficial. This should be combined with avoidance of smoking, alcohol, refined sugars, ultra processed foods, comfort foods, red meats. This is one place where 0 (for example drink) is better than 1 and 1 better than 2, so on and so forth. Western Diet is linked to an increase in weight, insulin resistance and chronic low-grade inflammation and plant favored foods are considered anti-inflammatory and immune boosting.

Physical Activity/Exercise is the 3rd arm of the triangle. Aerobic exercise is probably better, but good physical activity regularly is also advantageous for health. Studies over the last 2 decades have shown that any amount of physical activity or exercise can improve our:

- immune system even in the elderly,
- glucose tolerance, Insulin resistance, low-grade inflammation
- Increase in muscle mass
- Making active people sedentary for just 14 days has adverse consequences seen in a study with a decreased glucose tolerance, altered lipid metabolism, an increase in visceral fat and a decrease in muscle mass.



The common theme for all three above arms is chronic low-grade inflammation. It is linked to a spectrum of disorders such as:

- Obesity, metabolic syndrome and diabetes linked to 13 different cancers
- Cardiovascular disorders
- Neurogenerative diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's Disease
- Chronic low-grade inflammation happens to be one of the hallmarks for cancer It is plausible that we can decrease the risk of several diseases, including cancer, by modifying our lifestyle. We must remember that there is no guaranty and there are outliers. We all know

our lifestyle. We must remember that there is no guaranty and there are outliers. We all know of rare examples where a person smoked or drank alcohol all his/her life and did not have any significant medical problem. At the same time, some individuals get the worst kind of medical problems when they have resorted to a healthy lifestyle throughout their lives.

In the end I want to share some of the pearls that can help us all stay healthy:

- Eat less, less often, less calories, healthy meals with plant favored diet
- Eat a variety of foods with all different colors of apples, peppers, olives, cabbage, tomatoes rainbow plate concept (not just one apple a day)
- Fresh vegetables should constitute 30-35% of the plate, fruits 15-20%, 25-30% lentils, legumes and 20-25% high quality protein
- Drink enough fluids with electrolytes
- Sit less, walk more, take stairs (not elevators) when possible, park at a distance
- While sitting, do stretching exercises
- Spend time in healthy and happy relationships, listen to pleasant music
- Meditate, relax, make workplace enjoyable, do yoga, Reiki, Chi Qiong, Tai Chi
- Lead a happy and purposeful/meaningful life
- Avoid
 - o Binge eating and processed snacks
 - o Refined sugars, ultra processed foods, red meats
 - o Alcohol linked to at least 7 cancers
 - o Smoking linked to at least 16 different cancers
 - o Sedentary lifestyle and avoid obesity linked to 13 different cancers
 - o Too much exercise (lookup J-curve for exercise)
 - o Loneliness, toxic/unhealthy company

This is a summary and not everything. There is a lot more info on science behind lifestyle related changes, but space constraints do not allow for long discussions on studies.

Queensborough Community College
Is Proud to Support the

Association of Indians in America, NY Chapter's 2025 Benefit Gala Congratulations to this Evening's Honorees!

With Special Appreciation to
AIA President Beena Kothari
& the AIA-NY Executive Committee

For their tireless efforts, dedication, and invaluable contributions to the success of this event.



Best Wishes from MIZAN RAHMAN



Mizan Rahman, MBA, M.S (Finance)

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- > Executive Bonus Plans
- Group Employee Benefit Planning
- ➤ Group Life Insurance
- ➤ Group Disability Insurance
- Group Vision and Dental
- Supplemental Voluntary Benefits

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OATH CEREMONY MARCH 20, 2025





DR. BOBBY K. KALOTEE

Chairman Human Rights Commission



The Association of Indians in America - NY

Cordially invite you to the Oath and Inauguration Ceremony AIA-New York, 2025-2026 President, Beena Kothari & 2025-2026 Executive Committee Thursday, March 20th 2025 6.00 PM TO 9.00 PM 7.00 PM PROGRAM BEGINS 8.00 PM DINNER TO FOLLOW - VENUE -

THEODORE ROOSEVELT EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BUILDING 1550 FRANKLIN AVE, MINEOLA, NY 1 1501

RSVP by email at - theaianypresident@gmail.com whatsapp or text only to - Bal K Gilja, MD (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: Sharad Kothari, MD Treasurer: Bal K Gilja, MD

Members at Large: Anju Sharma, Bhavana Sharma, Deepika Modi, Narendra Lodha MD. Sumita Sengupta, MD. Usha Bansal, MD. Gobind Bathija, Jay Singh, Jyoti Gupta, Kiran Reddy Parvathala, Narinder Kapoor, Navneet Agarwal, Nutan Roongto, Preeti Bhansali. Roopam Maini, Sanju Sharma, Surin Manaktala, Swati Vaishnav and Satnam Singh Parhar

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REQUIREMENTS. MUST BE NEW MONEY TO THE BANK. APY ACCURATE AS OF 3/4/2025.INTEREST RATE OF 3.15% WITH AN ANNUAL PERCENTAGE YIELD (APY) OF 3.25%. MINIMUM DEPOSIT TO OPEN \$25,000.00 MUST MAINTAIN A MINIMUM DAILY BALANCE OF \$15.00 WILL BE CHARGED IF THE DAILY BALANCE FALLS BELOW \$25,000.00 A BONUS OF \$525.00 WILL BE DEPOSITED TO YOUR ACCOUNT 90 DAYS FROM INITIAL ACCOUNT OPENING.

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OATH CEREMONY MARCH 20, 2025





















OATH CEREMONY MARCH 20, 2025

















Best Wishes Beena ji Kothari & AIA-NY team Congratulations All Honorees



Best Compliments

SHANTI KOTHARI

Dr. Sharad Kothari, Dr. Neeta Mehta Divit Kothari

MEHTA MEDICAL PC	MEDSTAR HEALTH
3979, LACONIA AVE,	4204, WHITEPLAINS RD,
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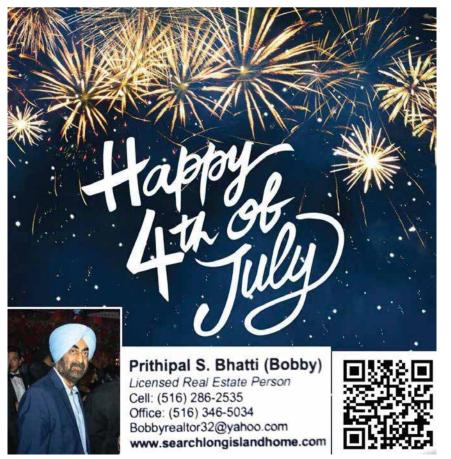




The Association of Indians in America - NY

HUM HINDUSTANI ARTICLE - MARCH 2025

















The Association of Indians in America - NY

HUM HINDUSTANI ARTICLE - MARCH 2025







Warmest Congratulations

to

President Devendra Shrivastava, MD

We celebrate your spectacular accomplishments and contributions to society and for your vision, hard work, and dedication to the community continue to inspire us all

We honor your legacy and celebrate your achievements

Please accept our heartfelt appreciation and best wishes

AAPI Queens and Long Island (AAPIQLI)









The Association of Indians in America - NY

HUM HINDUSTANI ARTICLE - MARCH 2025

हम हिंदुस्तानी,usa

Page 18

March 28-April 03, 2025 www.humhindustaniusa.com



शपथ ग्रहण समारोह दिलों में अमिट यादें छोड़ हुआ सम्पन्न



बीना कोठारी ने पूर्व अध्यक्षों, वालंटियर्स एवं स्पांसर केअलावा समर्थकों का आभार प्रकट किया जबकि शाम का समापन कोषाध्यक्ष डा. बाल के गिलजा एवं सचिव डा. शरद कोठारी ने धन्यवाद प्रस्ताव से की। इसके अलावा पूर्व अध्यक्ष डा. जगदीश गुप्ता को उनकी सेवाओं एवं समर्पण हेतु ...





























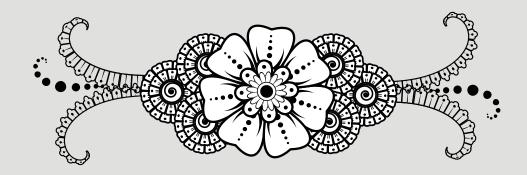




Heartfelt Congratulations!

To Beena Kothari and the AIA - NY

For your outstanding contributions and selfless service to the Indian community



Your dedication, leadership, and commitment to promoting Indian culture, heritage, and community welfare are truly commendable!

We salute your achievements and appreciate your tireless efforts!

Best wishes from

Mukund Padma Mehta and Family

Thank you

The AIA-NY Chapter Executive, Advisory, Gala, Souvenir Awards and Welcome Committee extend their heartfelt gratitude to:

Benefactors:

Dr. Samin and Manju Sharma Mount Sinai Health System & Sharma Family Foundation

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Host:

Drs. Urmilesh and Yashpal Arya
Mr.Gobind and Mrs.Sonia Bathija
Drs. Sharad and Neeta Kothari
Drs Tara and Narendra Lodha
Drs Priti and Nilesh Mehta
Hab Bank - Mr. Rizwan Qureshi
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Dr. Tarun and Mrs. Seema Wasil
Dr Jagdish and Mrs. Meena Gupta
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Thank you for your generous contributions and sponsorship. Your support has made this event possible.



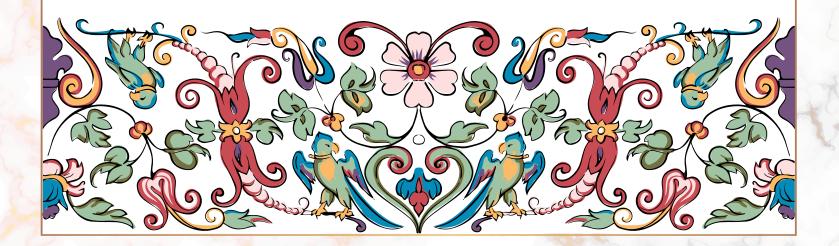
Heartfelt Congratulations to All the Honorees, President Beena Kothari And her exceptional Executive Team

From Gobind Munjal,

National President AIA and his esteemed Executive Team



From Left to Right - Gala Chair Dr Dolly Manvar, Dr Bharati Palkhiwala, General Secretary Gunjan Rastogi, Ram Tirumala, Vice President Uma Swaminathan, Honoree Dr Deepak Bhatt, Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient Dr Nirmal Mattoo, Past National President Dr Narinder Kukar, Past National President Dr Buddhadev Manvar, Treasurer Gobind Bathija and National President Gobind Munjal







The Association of Indians in America - NY



SOUTH ASIAN TIMES ARTICLE - MARCH 2025

6

March 29-April 4, 2025 COMMUNITY TheSouthAsianTimes.info

Beena Kothari inaugurated as President of AIA-NY chapter

New York: On March 20, 2025, the Association of Indians in America - New York Chapter (AIA-NY) held a momentous inauguration ceremony, marking the 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, past AIA Presidents, community leaders, members, and media partners.

The inauguration ceremony featured the singing of the

American and Indian national anthems by Bina Sabapthy, Jyoti Gupta, and Roopam Maini, as well as a Ganesh 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

The new AIA-NY Executive Committee includes: Beena Kothari, President; Anita Thakkar, Dr. Tarun Wasil, Harsh Vyas, Nilima Madaan, Vice Presidents; Dr Bal K Gilja, Treasurer; Dr Sharad Kothari, Secretary.

In her inspiring address, President Kothari



New president of AIA-NY chapter, Beena Kothari with Nassau County Legislator Rose Walker. (Photo courtesy: AIA-NY)

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."

Kothari encouraged participation in AIA activities by generation-next, adding, "We will encourage and induct young leadership, who grew

up with our motto of 'Indian Heritage and American Commitment', have great potential to become young AIA leaders?

The upcoming initiatives include: 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 and AIA-NY Iconic Deepavali Festival – October 2025.

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.







NEW YORK CANCER & BLOOD SPECIALISTS

Proudly supports **The Association of Indians in America Benefit Gala.** Congratulations to this evening's distinguished honorees!

Conquering Cancer Together.



Our mission is to provide world-class, patient-centered affordable care to patients with cancer and blood disorders in their own communities, close to family and friends.



nycancer.com







The Association of Indians in America

(AIA is a Non-Profit Organization of Asian Indians founded in 1967) $501 \mbox{\ensuremath{$0$}}\mbox{\ensuremath{$0$}}\mbox{\ensuremath{$0$}}\mbox{\ensuremath{$1$}}\mbox{\ensuremath{$2$}}\mbox{\ensuremath$

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 show casing 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:			
Occupation:			
Mobile:		Other:	
Phone:			
Email:			
Company or Corporate			

Please make your tax-deductible check payable to

The Association of Indians in America- NY Chapter (AIA-HY)
Mailing Address: 29 Bristol Drive, Manhasset, NY 11030

Contact: President Beena Kothari (631) 988 1280 Treasure: Dr. Bal K Gilja (516) 698 9272

E-mail: the aiany president @gmail.com

Website: www aia-ny.org











Providers:

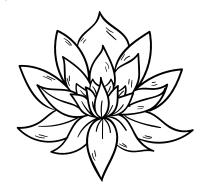
Karthik Gujja, MD Shervin Golbari, MD Cynthia Balasunmugam, MD Jeffrey Le, DO Hima Yalamanchili, MD Juliean Singh Pestano, MSN, ANP Raquel Sookram, FNP

Locations:

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Heartfelt Congratulations

to all the honorees on behalf of



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AIA MISSION

THE ASSOCIATION OF INDIANS IN AMERICA (AIA)

IS THE OLDEST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ASIAN INDIANS IN AMERICA. IT WAS FOUNDED ON AUGUST 20, 1967 AFTER THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS PASSED THE 1965-66 IMMIGRATION ACT, REPEALING THE ASIAN EXCLUSION ACT OF 1917. THE CONSTITUTION OF THE AIA WAS ADOPTED IN 1970 & WAS INCORPORATED IN 1971. THE AIA OBTAINED THE IRS TAX EXEMPT STATUS IN 1973. AIA IS THE GRASSROOTS NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF ASIAN IMMIGRANTS IN UNITED STATES, FOSTERED ON THE DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLE OF "ONE MEMBER ONE VOTE". WITH CHAPTERS & MEMBERSHIP SPREAD ACROSS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AIA REPRESENTS THE HOPES & ASPIRATIONS OF THOSE IMMIGRANTS WHO ARE UNITED BY THEIR COMMON BOND OF INDIAN HERITAGE & AMERICAN COMMITMENT.

INDIAN HERITAGE & AMERICAN COMMITMENT



AIA OBJECTIVES

- 1. TO PROMOTE THE WELFARE OF ASIAN INDIANS IN THE US AND TO ADDRESS ISSUES OF INTEGRATION WITH MAINSTREAM AMERICA.
- 2. TO PROMOTE THE IMAGE OF INDIA IN THE US BY SHOWING ITS RICH CULTURE AND TRADITIONS THROUGH VARIOUS EVENTS.
- **3.** TO ENCOURAGE AND FACILITATE THE PARTICIPATION OF AIA MEMBERS AND OTHERS IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS OF INDIA THROUGH CHARITABLE, CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND TO FACILITATE COMMUNICATION AND CO-OPERATION AMONG THE PEOPLE OF INDIAN HERITAGE WORLDWIDE.



HISTORICAL MILESTONES OF AIA

1967 – FOUNDED THE ASSOCIATION OF INDIANS IN AMERICA (ALA) IS THE OLDEST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ASIAN INDIANS IN AMERICA. IT WAS FOUNDED ON AUGUST 20, 1967 AFTER THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS PASSED THE IMMIGRATION ACT DURING 1965-66, REPEALING THE ASIAN EXCLUSION ACT OF 1917.

1970 - AIA CONSTITUTION ADOPTED

AIA ADOPTS THE DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES OF "ONE MEMBER ONE VOTE", WITH CHAPTERS AND MEMBERSHIP SPREAD ACROSS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

1973 - ACQUIRING TAX-EXEMPT STATUS ALA OBTAINS IRS EXEMPT STATUS.

1993 – EARTHQUAKE RELIEF OPERATIONS AIA HELPS RAISE FUNDS TO HELP THE VICTIMS OF THE EARTHQUAKE IN MAHARASHTRA, WESTERN INDIA, IN 1993.

1993 – SUSHRUTA AND CHARAKA AWARDS INSTITUTED IN 1993 TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR PEOPLE OF INDIAN ORIGIN IN THE FIELD OF MEDICINE AND HEALTH CARE.

2005 – NEW YORK CITY RECOGNIZES DEEPAVALI AS AN OFFICIAL HOLIDAY IN RECOGNITION OF DIWALI ALTERNATE STREET PARKING IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK IS SUSPENDED.

2006 – WHITE HOUSE CELEBRATES DEEPAVALI AIA FACILITATES THE FIRST CELEBRATION OF DEEPAVALI AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

2013 – OFFICIAL USPS DEEPAVALI STAMP UNVEILED RESOLUTION INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ADVISING USPS TO ISSUE A STAMP COMMEMORATING DEEPAVALI.

2023 – NYS LEGISLATION PASSES DIWALI AS A HOLIDAY IN NYC SCHOOL SYSTEM DEEPAVALI WOULD BE A SCHOOL HOLIDAY FOR ALL CHILDREN IN THE LARGEST SCHOOL SYSTEM IN THE NATION- NYC SCHOOL SYSTEM.









President Executive Committee

For your outstanding Community Service,



Best wishes from Past President Sunil Modi and Deepika Modi









AIA / PROJECT INDIA / UPCOMING EVENT / JULY 27, 2025

AIA IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION, ESTABLISHED IN 1967 WITH A MISSION TO IMPROVE AND STRENGTHEN UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN PEOPLE THROUGH CULTURAL AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES. AIA ESTABLISHED PROJECT INDIA, A CHARITABLE CHARTER TO SUPPORT SOCIAL CAUSES IN INDIA.

History of Project India:

Year 2006 - Year 2020:

Comprehensive Healthcare

- PROJECT INDIA CHANNELED OVER \$ 15 MILLION DOLLARS OF FUNDS IN CASH AND IN KIND TO HELP VARIOUS RELIEF PROJECTS, IN INDIA SUCH AS UNION CARBIDE TRAGEDY IN BHOPAL,
- IN 2006, AIA PARTNERED WITH AN NGO CALLED GUJARAT AIDS AWARENESS AND REVENTION (GAP), AND THE BROOKLYN HOSPITAL CENTER (TBHC) TO FIGHT AIDS.
- PROJECT INDIA DONATED OVER \$ 200,000 TO GAP- NGO, GUJARAT IN LAST 15 YEARS.
- THE PROGRAM NOW OFFERS COMPREHENSIVE WELLNESS TO OVER 2000 FAMILIES ACROSS 80 RURAL AND TRIBAL VILLAGES, ALONG THE BORDER OF GUJARAT AND RAJASTHAN.

Year 2024 - Year 2026: New Mission Farmer Livelihood Improvement

PROJECT INDIA TEAM COMMITS ITS SUPPORT TO GLOBAL VIKAS TRUST (GVT) AND ITS MISSION: Transforming India by increasing farmers' income

(INCREASED FARMERS INCOME: FROM RS 30,000/YEAR TO RS 2.0 LAKHS/YEAR)

Last year, Project India's donation helped GVT to plant 133,440 Fruit Saplings in Maharashtra.

- PLANTED 5.5 CRORES OF FRUIT TREES /-HELPING 25,000 FARMERS ACROSS 4,500 VILLAGES
- ESTABLISHED 100,000 SQ FT KRISHI KUL FARMER TRAINING CENTER, IN MAHARASHTRA

2025 - 2026 Project India Committee

Executive Committee:

Manjula Bansal, MD | Asmita Bhatia | Jagdish Gupta, MD | Smiti Khanna | Kailash Rawat | Divya Shah Aroon Shivdasani I Harish Thakkar

Members:

Anuj Goenka, MD | Dolly Manvar, MD | Shashi Shah, MD

Immediate Past President of NYC:

Jagdish Gupta, MD

President of NY Chapter 2025-2026:

Beena Kothari

NEC President:

Gobind Munjal

a 501 (c) 3-Corporation D - 23-7192936









LAST YEAR, WITH PROJECT INDIA'S DONATION,
GVT PLANTED 133,400 FRUIT SAPLINGS IN MAHARASHTRA.
WE AIM TO DOUBLE THE NUMBER OF FRUIT SAPLINGS THIS YEAR.
WE BELIEVE, TOGETHER WITH YOUR SUPPORT, IT CAN BE ACHIEVED.

► Sponsorship Opportunities

Support our green mission and be honored at our special event.

◆ Platinum Level - \$10,000

- → Planting of 1,000 Fruit Trees (in the name of your choice)
- → Special Guest Recognition at the event
- → Featured in Press, Journal & Media
- → VIP Seating for 8 guests
- → Access to Pre-Drama Reception

◆ Golden Level - \$7,500

- → Planting of 500 Fruit Trees (in the name of your choice)
- → Recognition at the Event
- → Included in Press, Journal & Media
- → VIP Seating for 4 guests
- → Access to Pre-Drama Reception

◆ Silver Level - \$5,000

- → Planting of 300 Fruit Trees (in the name of your choice)
- → Recognition at the Event
- → Included in Press, Journal & Media
- → Premier Seating for 4 guests
- → Access to Pre-Drama Reception

◆ Friends - \$2,500

- → Planting of 150 Fruit Trees (in the name of your choice)
- → Recognition at the Event
- → Premier Seating for 2 guests
- → Access to Pre-Drama Reception

◆ Supporter - \$1,200 and above

- → Seating for 2 guests
- → Access to Pre-Drama Reception















THE INDIAN PANORAMA ARTICLE - MARCH 2025

The INDIAN PANORAMA

NY/NJ/CT FRIDAY MARCH 28, 2025



Beena Kothari Inaugurated as President of AIA-NY





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

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 Sabapthy, Jyoti Gupta, and Roopam Maini, as well as a Ganesh Vandana performance by Hamsaasya School of Dance, Harsh Vyas and Jasbir Jay Singh served as emcees. President Bone Kothars and other

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



- 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

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." Towesther let us our American dreams. Together, let us strive to take AIA to new heights and continue to serve our community with pride and purpose."

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 pres 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 Ist 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 -

AlA-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 even just concluded with a heartfelt

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











THE UNN ARTICLE - MARCH 2025

Beena Kothari Assumes Charge as President of The Association of Indians in America – New York Chapter (AIA-NY)

© March 27, 2025 ▲ Staff Reporter □ 0



Beeno Kothart, a veteran community leader along with the Executive Committee assumed charge on March 20, 2025 as the President of the Association of Indians in America — New York Chapter (AlA-NY), during a solemn inauguration coremony. The event was attended by over 150 distinguished guests, including electricials. AlA founding members, Blood of Trustees, poet AlA Presidents, community leaders, members, and media partners.

The services your business needs.











Chairman Board of Trustees

Samin K. Sharma

Samin K. Sharm a, MD, is are now nedinterventional cardiology expert well known for performing high-risk complex coronary interventions (more than 1,500 interventions per year) with an extremely high success rate (greater than 99 percent) while achieving an extremely low major complication rate (less than 0.2 percent). He has received the prestigious two-star designation (significantly lower than expected mortality)



numerous times from the New York State Department of Health, and the Governor's Award of Excellence in Medicine in 1996. He served on New York State's Cardiac Advisory Board from 2004–2016. Under Dr. Sharma's leadership, The Mount Sinai Hospital Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory has become one of the safest and busiest centers in New York, providing state-of-the-art cardiac and interventional care for all types of simple and complex heart patients. Dr. Sharma specializes in the nonsurgical treatment of mitral and aortic valve disease, including transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) and MitraClipTM procedures (TEER). He has been dubbed "master of the Rotablator" and is regularly featured on national and local TV (recently on CBS, TV Asia), and in newspapers and magazines including Newsday, Newsweek, The New York Times, The New York Post, Forbes, The Wall Street Journal, The New York Daily News, The Washington Post, New York Magazine, India Abroad, and India Today. He has received numerous awards: 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award by Federation of Indians in America (FIA); Trailblazer Award by Indian-American Arts Council (IAAC); 2024 Distinguished Scientist Award; AAPI World Health Congress; 2023 Master Operator by India Live Conference, 2021-2022 Chief Guest; Times Square, Diwali Celebration; 2018 Chairman Board of Trustees, Association of Indians in America (AIA); 2015 Honorary Master of Science PhD degree by Rajasthan University Jaipur India; 2014 Distinguished Physician Scientist by AAPI-QLI for excellence in Medicine; 2011 Ellis Island Medal of Honor; 2011 American Heart Association Achievement in Cardiovascular Science & Medicine Award; 2011 American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) Physician of the Year; 2010 AIA for Excellence in Medicine; 2003–2007 and 2010–2024 Best Doctors by New York Magazine; 2008-2024 Super Doctors; 2007 Jacobi Medallion Award by The Mount Sinai Hospital; 2007 Physician of the Year by The Mount Sinai Hospital; and 2000 Simon Deck Award for Outstanding Teacher of the Year. He has authored more than 410 papers and 16 book chapters in the field of coronary interventions, structural heart disease, and safety of percutaneous interventions. He is also a philanthropist, and The Mount Sinai Hospital Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory is named the Dr. Samin K. Sharma Family Foundation Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory. Dr. Sharma has built a 250-bed heart hospital, the Eternal Heart Care Center in his native Jaipur, India, to provide the best care to all patients irrespective of their financial and social status. His live mont h ly web c astseries, CCCLiveCases (www.ccclivecases.org), started in 2009, and has an audience of more than 5,000 viewers each month in 179 countries. He also enjoys teaching other cardiologists and improving patient outcomes with his annual Complex Coronary Cases (CCC) Sy mp o s iu m a n d nu m e rou s other major scientific meetings, conferences, and live relays.





Heartiest Congratulations

to

the AIA-NY Leaders and Team

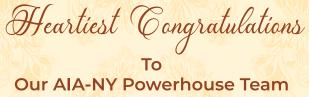
Your selfless dedication, compassionate leadership, and intentional efforts have made this journey truly remarkable. You've led with empathy, built with purpose, and moved with love.

This achievement transcends success, it's a testament to the soulful work you've done. And you've done it beautifully.



Best wishes from

Kiran Reddy Parvathala, Narinder Kapoor, Navneet Agarwal, Nick Garg, Nutan Roongta, Roopam Maine, Sanju Sharma, Surin Manaktala, Swati Vaishnav, Satnam Singh Parhar



The AIA-NY Shining Stars Behind the Gala

This Deepavali, you didn't just light lamps, you lit hearts. With every detail, every moment, you created magic with meaning. Your efforts brought hope, joy, and generosity to life.

Thank you for leading with heart and purpose. This gala will be remembered, not just for what we raised, but for how we rose together.

Best wishes from:

Anita Thakkar, Dr. Tarun Wasil, Harsh Vyas, Nilima Madan, Dr.Bal K Gilja,- Dr.Sharad Kothari Anju Sharma, Bhavana Sharma, Deepak Bansal, Deepika Modi Dr. Narendra Lodha, Dr. Sumita Sengupta, Dr. Usha Bansal, Gobind Bathija, Jay Singh, Jyoti Gupta.

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Congratulations to

Beena Kothari, President, AIA

and the honorees

Karthik Gujja, MD, M.P.H. Devendra Shrivastava, MD Ramesh C. Gupta, Ph.D. Hetal Gor, MD, FACOG Navneet Sikka



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DDC proudly supports the Deepavali Benefit Gala **Congratulations to** Mr. Kanak Golia, Gala Chair, & Ms. Beena Kothari, **President of AIA-NY,** for their leadership and service. Wishing all a joyful Deepavali!









Merajur Rahman MD Shirley Johnson-Hall













Syeda Hossain MD

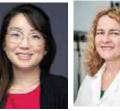




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COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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2

Beena Kothari Inaugurated as President of The Association of Indians in America - New York Chapter (AIA-NY)











Highlights of the Achievements of The Association of Indians in America (AIA)

AIA was founded on August 20, 1967, it is the oldest grass root national organization of Asian Indian Immigrants in the United States, fostered on the democratic principle of "one member one vote"; with chapters and membership spread across the United States of America. It concerns itself with the social welfare of the Asian Indians in the United States, and to help them become a part of the mainstream of American life. AIA represents the hopes and aspirations of those immigrants who are united by their common bond of "Indian Heritage and American Commitment".

It was *through the efforts of AIA* that Indians were enumerated as a separate and distinct category "Asian / Pacific Islander' category in the US Census in 1980. It was also through the years of efforts by AIA that MBBS degree holders from India could write the Suffix MD after their name around 1990's.

AIA initiated the Honor Banquet awards in 1973, followed by the Medical Council awards in 1974 and have since honored hundreds of Nobel Laureates, Leading musicians, physicians, scholars, and academicians.

A unique program called Project India was initiated in 1973 to encourage participation in India's development and prosperity. Project India has channeled more than fifteen million dollars' worth of medical supplies and equipment in early 1980' The Association also raised funds for worldwide disasters. Project India is an ongoing activity, actively engaged in HIV Prevention, education, and treatment especially in Gujrat.

To familiarize the general, local public to the Indian Festival of Diwali, the First ever public event of "Diwali" Celebration organized by AIA took place in New York City in 1987, first ever anywhere in the world outside India. It has been an ongoing yearly celebration for the last 37 years.

In October 2003, **Diwali at the behest of AIA was started and celebrated in the white House**. Especially minted 1,000 commemorative silver coins were issued to mark the occasion.

Diwali U.S. *Postal* **stamp** request was initiated by AIA and later successfully released with the conjoint effort of the community.

AlA **celebrated India's Golden Anniversary of independence in 1997** with a glittering gala event at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City; At this occasion, AlA published a commemorative, **highly acclaimed Book "ANANYA"**; which got raving reviews.

AIA **celebrated 50th Anniversary of AIA** in an elegant ceremony at Garden City Hotel, Garden City, Long Island, NY in 2018

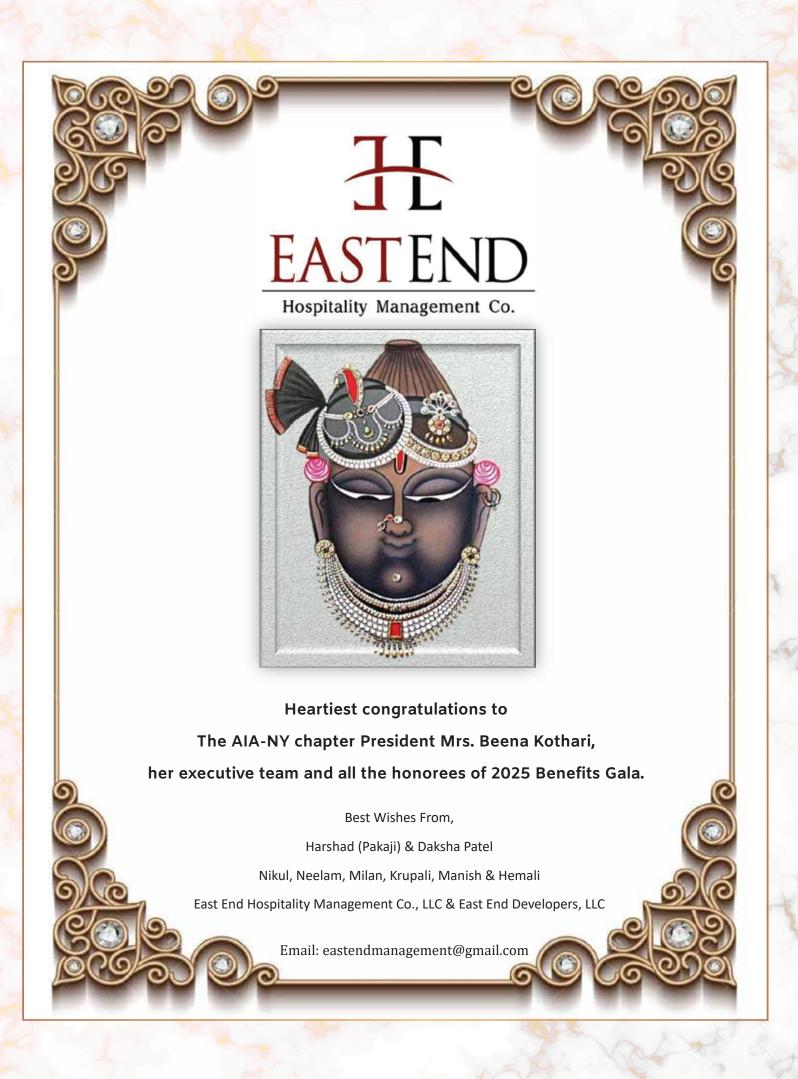
During Covid 2020-2022, the Association contributed hundreds of Oxygenators to different hospitals in India across the country AIA also renovated a school in India in the village of Ayoor, Kerala and built another high school in village Khandwa of district Bharatpur, Rajasthan.

On May 6th 2023, AIA **celebrated 75th anniversary of India's Independence** at an Honor Banquet held at Terrace on the Park in Flushing Meadow, New York attended by dignitaries like Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and NYC Mayor.

Diwali has been declared a Public School Holiday in New York City Public Schools with the help from Assemblywoman Jennifer Rajkumar, Mayor Eric Adams and Others. Diwali is now declared a State Holiday in 3 States; New York, Pennsylvania and Texas. AIA along with the whole Indian community is now working on making it a National Holiday.

Restarted Medical Council Awards after a gap of 15 years in a recent Gala at a very beautiful and luxurious venue CIPRIANI 42nd St in Manhattan, NY on May 3rd, 2025 led by the younger generation, where 4 very prominent Physicians and Surgeons of the 2nd generation were honored. With the changing times, we need to involve younger generation to start taking leadership roles, as we did it in the recent very successful Medical Council Awards Gala.

Gobind Munjal
National President of AIA





We Thank Our Sponsors & Media Partners





































Heartfelt Congratulations

to All the Honorees!

May this recognition be a testament to your hard work, dedication, and outstanding contributions to our community.

Wishing you continued success and celebration!

A Heartfelt Salute to AIA-New York and the Visionaries Who Inspire Us All With deep respect and admiration, we extend our sincerest gratitude to the remarkable individuals who have shaped the legacy of AIA-New York:

To our Past Presidents, for your visionary leadership that laid the foundation for enduring progress.

To our Gala Chair and Finance Chair, for your unwavering guidance and wisdom.

To the Board of Trustees, for your steadfast stewardship and belief in our mission.

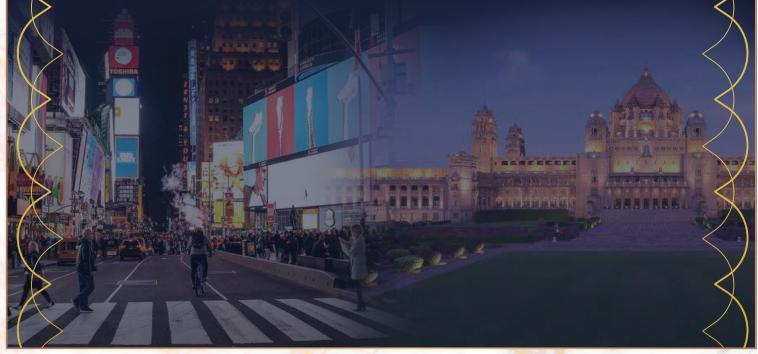
To the pillars of our community, whose unwavering support uplifts us all.

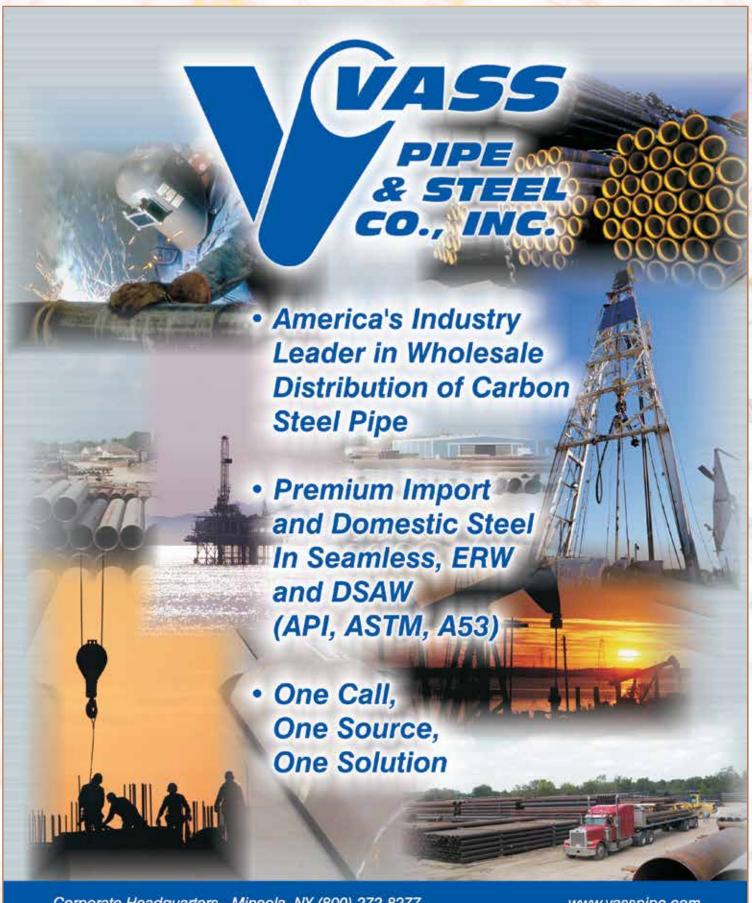
And to my Advisory team and current Executive Committee, whose tireless dedication and unity of purpose are truly exemplary.

Thank you for your outstanding service, boundless generosity, and unwavering commitment to excellence. Together, you have not only built a vibrant organization but a beacon of culture, unity, and purpose.

With warmest regards and best wishes from

Beena Kothari & The Kothari Family





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Dr. Samin K. Sharma Family Foundation
Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory,
The Mount Sinai Hospital and
Eternal Heart Care Centre

Congratulates

AIA-NY, President Beena Kothari

&

Honorees

Dr. Karthik Gujja Dr. Devendra Shrivastava Navneet Sikka Dr. Hetal Gor Dr. Ramesh C Gupta