



26TH ANNUAL HERITAGE OF INDIA FESTIVAL



SUNDAY, AUG. 2 | KENSICO DAM PLAZA

NOON - 6 P.M. ■ RAIN OR SHINE

VASUDHAIVA KUTUMBAKAM **"The World is One Family"**

FROM ANCIENT WISDOM TO MODERN INNOVATION



Bharat (India): Ancient Wisdom For a Shared Future
ONE EARTH ONE FAMILY ONE FUTURE



FREE ADMISSION & PARKING • ALL ARE WELCOME!

Indian American Cultural Association of Westchester

EST. 1973 | A Not-for-Profit Organization

P.O. Box 358, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522. | www.iacaw.org

Presented in cooperation with the **County of Westchester Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation**

THANK YOU

With Gratitude

THANK YOU

To the thousands of volunteers, donors, performers, sponsors, community leaders, families, and supporters—past and present.

Your vision, generosity, and countless hours of service have transformed the Heritage of India Festival into a cherished tradition for twenty-six years. We celebrate today because of the foundation you built and the legacy you continue to inspire.

THANK YOU

To those who articulated and defended the enduring ideals of Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.

As we celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the United States, we honor those whose courage, sacrifice, and vision helped shape a nation dedicated to freedom, opportunity, and democratic ideals. We also recognize every generation that has worked—and continues to work—to make those ideals more fully realized.

THANK YOU

To the countless generations who preserved Bharat's timeless wisdom, knowledge, arts, traditions, and values.

Your devotion has enabled one of the world's oldest living civilizations to continue inspiring humanity while enriching communities across the world.

THANK YOU

To the parents, grandparents, teachers, mentors, and community elders.

You passed on not only knowledge and traditions, but also character, compassion, integrity, and the enduring responsibility to serve others and strengthen our communities.

THANK YOU

To today's youth, volunteers, performers, artists, educators, vendors, donors, and every family who gathers in celebration.

You are writing the next chapter of this remarkable story. Through your energy, creativity, and service, you are helping ensure that our community—and the Heritage of India Festival—continues to inspire future generations.

THANK YOU

For allowing our family the privilege of serving this remarkable community, and for giving us the opportunity to help carry this legacy forward.

WITH HEARTFELT GRATITUDE,

Pankaj Mehta & Family

*“The best way to find yourself
is to lose yourself in the
service of others.”*

— Mahatma Gandhi

*The bridges we build, the values
we preserve, and the example we set
today are the heritage our children
will inherit tomorrow.*



→ Come and Join Us in a Fun-Filled Celebration! <



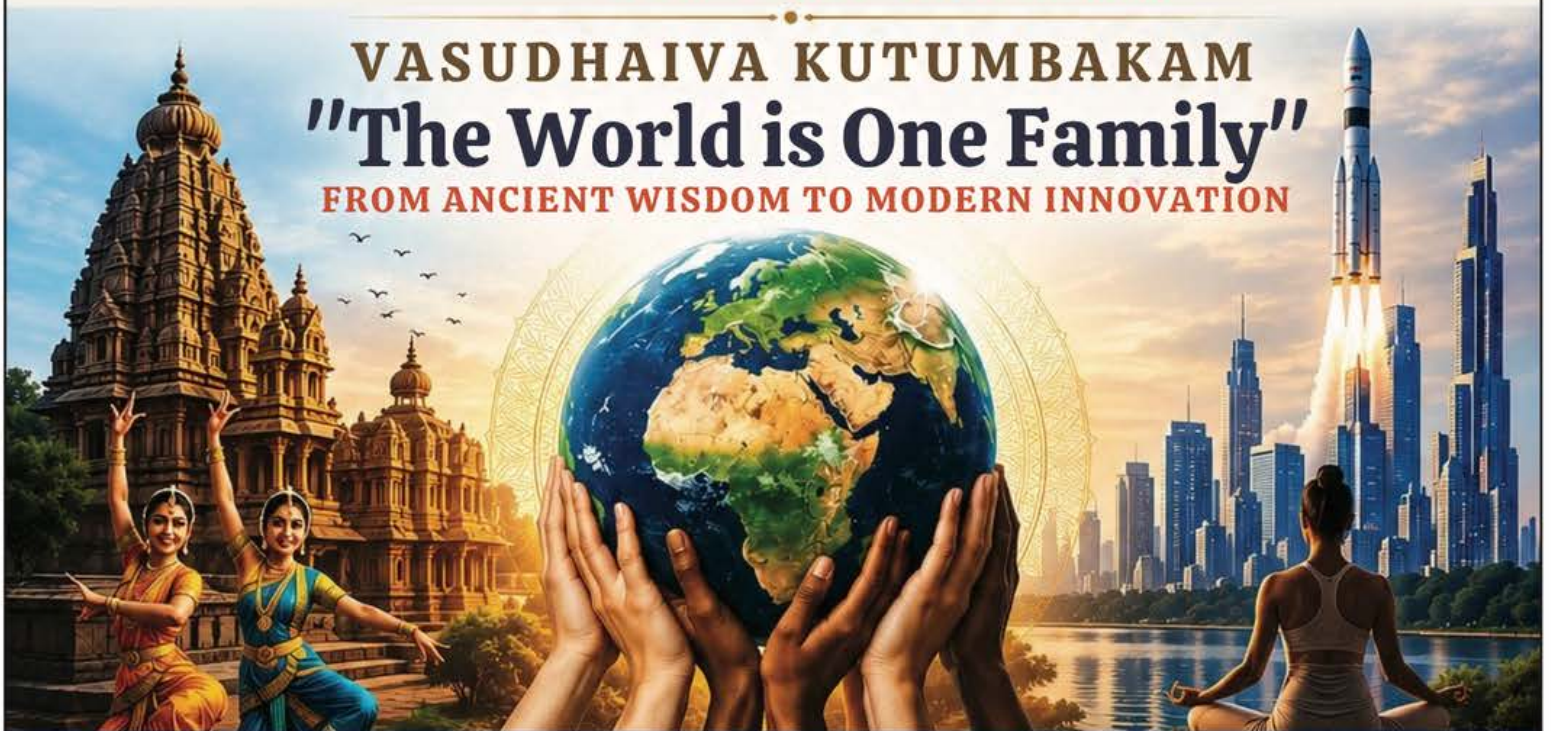
INDIAN AMERICAN
CULTURAL ASSOCIATION
OF WESTCHESTER
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**CULTURAL
PERFORMANCES**

Classical, Folk &
Contemporary



**INDIAN BAZAAR
& CUISINE**

Vendors, Food &
Unique Finds



**CHILDREN'S
ACTIVITIES**

Arts, Crafts &
Family Fun



**YOGA &
WELLNESS**

Mind, Body &
Well-being



**TRADITIONS &
COMMUNITY**

Celebrating Diversity
Building Together



FREE ADMISSION & PARKING • ALL ARE WELCOME!



www.iacaw.org



@iacawestchester



SCAN TO
VISIT OUR
WEBSITE!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Harry Singh: harrys.ec@iacaw.org

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vabhattacharyya@gmail.com

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**Indian American Cultural
Association of Westchester**
EST. 1973

EST. 1973 | Not-for-Profit Organization
P.O. Box 358, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10622

Mission and Vision



Brief History of IACAW

IACAW is the foremost cultural organization serving the Indian community of Westchester for almost half a century. Its mission is to promote a greater understanding of the Indian culture, art, music, literature, food and the diversity of people of Indian origin. Since its founding in 1973 by a small group of new immigrants that settled in Westchester County, the Association has advanced the knowledge of Indian culture not only within the County but throughout the tri-state area. Indians as an ethnic group are amongst the most culturally rich and diverse community in America and particularly in Westchester County. Members of the Indian community not only serve the citizens of Westchester County in various professional and entrepreneurial capacities but also generate significant employment opportunities in the county.

Mission



To cultivate, promote, sponsor and develop an understanding of Indian music, dance, art, theater and literature amongst the Indian and American communities by arranging, sponsoring and organizing art shows, music, film, stage performances, lectures, seminars, meetings, exhibitions, radio and television programs, creating an archive of periodicals, books, photographs, film and music records.

Vision

To be the pillar (foundation) for the Indian American community in shaping future generations and raising awareness about our culture while preserving our cultural heritage and cultivating a sense of pride and belonging for our younger members.





IACAW membership 2025

[join now](#)

WHY join ?

Exclusive Access to Events

☀️ Priority entry and discounts for all IACAW cultural programs, festivals, and galas, including the vibrant Diwali Gala and Heritage India Festival.

1



Community Connections

👥 Be part of a dynamic network that celebrates Indian heritage while building bridges in Westchester County.

2

Be Heard & Get Involved

💬 Voting rights in elections, opportunities to serve on the Executive Committee, and a platform to bring your ideas to life.

3

Volunteer Recognition:

🤝 Earn rewards, free event access, and featured recognition for contributing to the success of IACAW's activities.

4

Fun for All Ages

👨‍👩‍👧 Special programs for children, youth, and seniors, plus entertainment that brings the community together!

5

Skill Development + Leadership Opportunities

💡 Join committees, lead programs, and develop valuable skills while giving back to the community.

6

@iacaw
www.iacaw.org



Executive Committee 2026



Pankaj Mehta
President



Harry Singh
President - Elect



Dinbandhu Shah
Treasurer



Supriya Doshi
Secretary



Promila Saxena
Joint Secretary



Suchitra Joshi



Ripal Shah



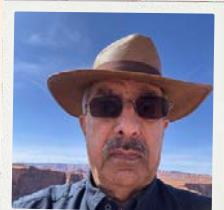
Niyati Parikh



Rajoo Shah



Rohit Pandya



Suresh Khanna

Heritage of India Festival Committee



Pankaj Mehta
Festival Co-Chair
IACAW President, 2026



Harry Singh
Festival Co-Chair
IACAW President-Elect



Vaishali Bhattacharyya
Festival Deputy Chair
IACAW Youth Group Advisor



Dinbandhu Shah
Finance, Fundraising,
Media/County &
Community Relations



Rohit Pandya
Business Expo,
Facility Planning,
Decorations



Suchitra Joshi
Cultural Program
Media Relations



Pragya Tiwari
Cultural Program



Bhavya Shree
Cultural Program

Heritage of India Festival Committee con't...



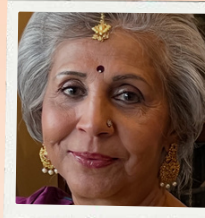
Ripal Shah
Cultural Program,
Brochure, Volunteer
Coordinator



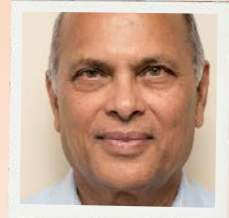
Promila Saxena
Cultural Program,
Brochure, Decorations



Daksha Thaker
Cultural Program



Ila Pandya
Cultural Program



Dhimant Pandya
Cultural Program



Usha Shukla
Cultural Program



Supriya Doshi
Brochure



Jagdish Mistry
County / Community
Relations



B.C. Venkatesh
Media Relations /
Outreach



Hiral Trivedi
Business Expo,
Decorations



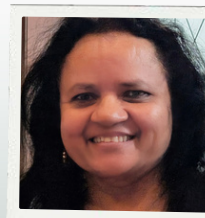
Raj Pithadia
Business Expo



Pravin Thaker
Facility Planning



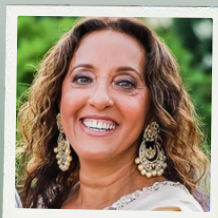
Ashoke Rajdev
Facility Planning



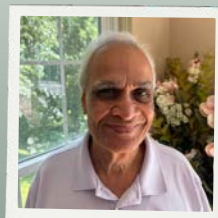
Niyati Parikh
Children's Activity



Rajoo Shah
Children's Activity



Chitra Taneja
Children's Activity



Suryakant Patel
Volunteer Coordinator



Ramesh Shah
IACAW Heritage
Ambassador



Suman Patel
IACAW Heritage
Ambassador

Your contribution is seen, felt, and deeply appreciated by everyone
whose life this festival touches.



IACAW Youth Group

The Next Generation of Cultural Leadership



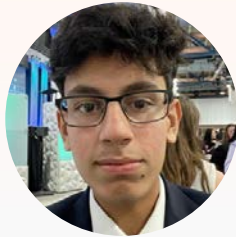
The IACAW Youth Group is a vibrant community of young Indian Americans dedicated to celebrating our heritage, serving our community, and developing the next generation of leaders. Through cultural events, community service, wellness programming, and leadership development, our members carry the IACAW mission forward with energy, creativity, and heart.

Our Mission: To empower young Indian Americans to lead with purpose, serve with heart, and celebrate their heritage with pride — building a stronger, more connected community for generations to come.

2026 Youth Group Officers



Ishant Buddhavarapu
President



Anand Dhanwantri
Vice President



Avish Chandra
Recruitment & Member
Development Chair



Yash Parikh
Finance &
Administration Chair



Ishaan Jain
Community Service
& Program Chair



Yashvi Parikh
Recruitment & Member
Development Chair



Anarna Taneja
Program Chair



Rohan Seth
Program Chair



Riya Buddhavarapu
Advisor & Past
President

Want to join us?

The IACAW Youth Group welcomes all young people ages 13–18. Whether you want to perform, lead, serve, or simply belong — there is a place for you here. Scan the QR code to learn more and join our community!



iacaw.org | [@iacawyouthgroup](https://www.instagram.com/iacawyouthgroup)





IACAW YOUTH GROUP EVENT GLIMPS



Greetings from the Heritage of India Festival Co-Chairs



Pankaj Mehta



Harry Singh

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Indian American Cultural Association of Westchester (IACAW), it is our great pleasure to welcome you to the 26th Annual Heritage of India Festival.

As we gather today to celebrate the 26th Annual Heritage of India Festival, we also join our fellow Americans in commemorating the 250th anniversary of the American Declaration of Independence. This special year provides an opportunity to reflect on the rich heritage we have inherited, the values we share, and the contributions that diverse communities have made to the American story.

Since its founding in 1973, IACAW has been dedicated to preserving, celebrating, and sharing the rich cultural heritage of India while strengthening the bonds of community here in Westchester County. Over the decades, our organization has grown alongside the Indian American community, serving as a bridge between generations and helping to foster understanding, friendship, and civic engagement across the broader community.

The theme of this year's festival, "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam – The World is One Family," is inspired by "Bharat (India): Ancient Wisdom for a Shared Future." Rooted in India's ancient philosophical traditions, this timeless principle reminds us that despite our differences in language, culture, faith, or nationality, we are all interconnected and share a common humanity.

The story of Bharat is a story of continuity and renewal. From ancient centers of learning, philosophy, mathematics, astronomy, yoga, and meditation to modern achievements in science, medicine, entrepreneurship, technology, and space exploration, India has continually contributed ideas and innovations that have enriched humanity. The enduring relevance of these traditions reminds us that ancient wisdom and modern progress are not opposing forces, but complementary paths toward a better future.

This year also marks the 250th anniversary of the American Declaration of Independence. As Indian Americans, we take pride in the enduring bond between the world's oldest continuous democracy and the world's largest democracy—two nations united by their commitment to freedom, diversity, and democracy. These shared values have enabled people from every background to contribute, flourish, and help shape a more inclusive society.

The Heritage of India Festival reflects these ideals by bringing together people of all backgrounds to celebrate culture, learning, and community. We are especially grateful to the many cultural, civic, educational, and faith-based organizations that participate each year. Their presence reminds us that strong communities are built by strengthening bonds within our own community while also building bridges across generations, cultures, traditions, and faiths.

For twenty-six years, the Heritage of India Festival has served as a gathering place where culture, friendship, education, and community come together. Through music and dance, yoga and wellness, cuisine and craftsmanship, exhibits and conversations, we celebrate not only India's remarkable heritage but also the values of inclusion, mutual respect, and service that enrich our shared future.

We would like to express my sincere appreciation to Westchester County Executive Kenneth W. Jenkins, the Westchester County Board of Legislators, the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, our elected officials, community partners, sponsors, performers, vendors, volunteers, and countless supporters whose dedication makes this festival possible. Their continued partnership and commitment to cultural understanding help strengthen the vibrant and diverse fabric of Westchester County.

Most importantly, we thank the families, friends, and visitors who join us today. Your participation keeps our traditions alive, inspires future generations, and demonstrates the enduring power of community.

May this festival inspire new friendships, deepen understanding, celebrate our shared humanity, and remind us of a simple but profound truth: The World is One Family.

Warm regards,

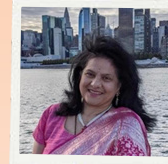
Pankaj Mehta, President & HIF Co-Chair

Harry Singh, President-Elect & HIF Co-Chair

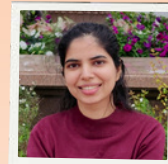
Indian American Cultural Association of Westchester (IACAW)



A Message from Cultural Co-Chairs



Suchitra Joshi



Pragya Tiwari



Bhavya Shree

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (Sanskrit: वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्) is one of the most profound philosophies of Indian civilization. Originating from the **Maha Upanishad**, the phrase translates to "**The World is One Family**." It reflects the timeless belief that all human beings, irrespective of nationality, religion, race, language, or social status, are interconnected and belong to a single global family.

Music as a Bond Beyond Borders

India is home to diverse languages, religions, traditions, and ethnic communities. Indian performing arts are no exception and have long served as a powerful medium for expressing the values of unity, inclusiveness, and universal love. Dance and music embody universal languages – the art needs no spoken words – facial expressions and body language tell the whole story. Classical and folk dances from different regions of India symbolize cultural diversity coming together in harmony.

Bharatanatyam from Tamil Nadu reflects devotion, spirituality, and unity of the soul with the divine. **Kathak** from North India showcases cultural synthesis and storytelling traditions. **Odissi**, **Kuchipudi**, **Manipuri**, **Mohiniyattam**, and **Kathakali** each represent unique regional identities while contributing to India's shared cultural heritage. Folk dances such as **Lavani**, **Bhangra**, **Garba**, **Ghoomar**, and **Bihu** celebrate community participation and collective joy.

When artists from different traditions perform together on a common stage, they demonstrate the essence of **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam** – many cultures, one spirit. Music transcends language, geography, and social barriers, making it one of the most powerful expressions of universal unity. Indian classical music emphasizes harmony, peace, and spiritual connection. Whether through **Hindustani** or **Carnatic** traditions, music creates a shared emotional experience that connects people across backgrounds.

Some popular songs that embody the spirit of **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam** include:

"**Mile Sur Mera Tumhara**" – Celebrates India's linguistic and cultural diversity while emphasizing national unity.

"**Hum Honge Kamyab**" – Inspires collective hope, resilience, and shared aspirations.

"**Ekla Chalo Re**" by Rabindranath Tagore – Encourages social courage and service to humanity.

"**Vaishnava Jana To**" – Promotes compassion, empathy, and concern for others.

These songs convey messages of peace, inclusion, cooperation, and mutual respect, aligning closely with the philosophy that the world is one family.

"Different Traditions • Varied Styles – Yet One Family • One Future"

HERITAGE OF INDIA 2026 ~ CULTURAL PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

Chair Persons: Suchitra Joshi & Bhavya Shree & Pragya Tiwari

Master of Ceremonies: Janhavi Shah

Performance / Presentation & Participants

		Time
	Puja and Start ceremony	12:00 p
1	American & Indian National Anthems: Sangeetika Music School ~ Adwitiya Kundu <i>Students of Sangeetika Music School</i>	12:05 p
2&3	Opening Address by Festival and Culture Chair Persons	12:10 p
4	Vocal ~ Patriotic Medley ~ Sangeetika Music School ~ Adwitiya Kundu <i>Nandana Bindu, Aradhana Binu, Yana Chopra, Aditi Gore, Jay Jokhagar, Abir Kundu, Aryash Kundu, Yatee Lokhande, Manasi Pandalai, Saanjh Patel, Saanvi Patel, Sharmishtha Sarkar, Aanya Shetty, Dhilan Shetty, Tanisha Venkatapur.</i>	12:20 p
5	Bharatnatyam Classical Dance ~ Pushpanjali ~ Natya Anubhava ~ Nalini Rau & Smt. Bhanumati Pushpanjali is an opening dance offering salutations to the eight directions, Bhu Devi, and the audience, showcasing intricate footwork and geometric patterns. <i>Meena Chen, Megha Swamy</i>	12:25 p
6	Bharatnatyam Classical Dance ~ Mallari ~ Natya Anubhava ~ Nalini Rau A classical Bharatanatyam piece set to <i>Raga Natai</i> . (Choreographer: Nalini Rau; Singers: Bombay Sisters) <i>Layana Aiyar, Sia Mathur, Megha Swamy</i>	12:30 p
7	Bharatnatyam Classical Dance ~ Kirtana ~ Natya Anubhava ~ Nalini Rau Shankar Sri Giri honors Lord Shiva, the cosmic dancer whose sound and movement create and dissolve the universe, dancing eternally within all consciousness. (<i>Raga Hamsanandi, Tala Adi; Composer: Swaati Tirunael</i>) <i>Sameera kavanal, Megha Swamy</i>	12:35 p
8	Folk dance ~ Arya Samaj of Suburban NY ~ Chavvi Gupta Aaj Brij Mein Holi Re Rasiya — Bringing the colors and joy of Braj to life in this vibrant celebration of Holi. <i>Vaani Arora, Aryaa Gupta, Aria Gupta, Amayra Gupta, Myra Kumar, Navya Kumar, Nyra Upadhyay, Raeva Visweswaran</i>	12:40 p
9	Classical Dance ~ Kol aaTa ~ Nalini Rau and Megha Swamy This is a folk song, a beautiful beats presented a kol aaTa or to play with sticks/daanDiya <i>Layana Aiyer, Sia Mathur, Megha Swamy</i>	12:45 p
10	Melody ~ Guftugu ~ Coordinated by: Pragya Tiwari ~ Director: Debojit Bose Mashup of songs celebrating LIFE..! <i>Debojit Bose, Aarti Palamadai, Pragya Tiwari</i>	12:50 p
11	Kathak Dance ~ Abhyas Kathak Nrityashala ~ Mahishasurmardini Stotram ~ Choreographed by Rachna Sinha The Victory — This Kathak piece depicts Goddess Durga defeating the shape-shifting demon Mahishasura, earning her the title Mahishasura Mardini. <i>Kirti Agrawal, Anu Bhambri, Soha Chhapra, Geeta Tarwala, Shalini Verma</i>	12:55 p
12	Bollywood Melody of Dances ~ D4Dance NY ~ Urvashi Sinha Bollywood Tribute to Saroj Khan — Performers honor legendary choreographer Saroj Khan through a medley of Hindi songs celebrating the timeless magic of Bollywood dance. <i>Puja Agarwal, Rani Bisht, Chetana Mugalavally, Ashwini Paranjpe, Neepa Patel, Urvashi Sinha, Swati Kakkar</i>	1:00 p
13	Sholaka And Yoga Asana ~ Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh ~ Ashwini Deshpande Shloka & Yoga Performance — Presented by HSS, this children's performance showcases the beauty, balance, and grace of shlokas and yoga, ancient practices that harmonize body, mind, and spirit while passing timeless cultural values to the next generation. <i>Shivansh Barot, Keshar Borse, Sarth Daware, Ahana Doshi, Aryan Doshi, Aaryan Manthri, Neel Paranjape, Arjun Pathak, Ira Puranik, Jvin Shah</i>	1:05 p
14	Bharatnatyam Fusion ~ Trinethra Dance School ~ Bhavya Shree Chandrachuda Shiva Shankara Parvati — This Bharatanatyam fusion opens with a devotional celebration of Shiva and Parvati's divine union, transitions into a striking Ardhanarishwara portrayal with two dancers moving as one, and closes with an energetic Bollywood finale. <i>Janhavi Shah, Bhavya Shree</i>	1:15 p
15	Bollywood Song ~ Sagar Kinare <i>Harsh Chitroda, Palak Chitroda</i>	1:20 p
16	Tarana ~ Abhyas Kathak Nrityashala ~ Rachna Sinha Tarana — This Kathak piece revives a form invented by Sufi poet Ustad Amir Khusro, blending Persian and Indian musical traditions. Composition by <i>Pt. Ravi Shankar</i> . (Choreographed by Rachna Sinha) <i>Piya Goyal, Mayra Gupta, Mehr Sikriwal, Ipsa Verma</i>	1:25 p
17	Mitti ke Bette Song ~ Soulful Performers of NJ ~ Sudesh Khokhar Mitti Ke Sapoot - This powerful musical tribute honors the deep bond between a person and their homeland, celebrating resilience, heritage, and the strength drawn from one's roots. <i>Rayan Khokhar, Ravinder Khokhar, Sudesh Khokhar</i>	1:33 p



18	Rajasthani Folk Dance ~ Trinethra Dance Academy ~ Bhavya Shree Rajasthani Folk Medley — A vibrant celebration of Rajasthan's heritage through graceful Ghoomar and festive Holi movements, set to "Ghoomer," "Rangilo Maro Dholna," and "Holiya Mein Ude Re Gulal." Kashika Goel, Nancy Shah, Pragya Tiwari, Maitri Vyas	1:40 p
19	Bharatnatyam Dance ~ Bhajan ~ Natyamudra School of Dance ~ Liza Joseph Shanti Mantra — A prayer invoking Lord Krishna to bring peace across all of creation — water, earth, sky, and every being and calling. Varnika Gopichandar, Anaya Patel	1:45 p
20	Semi Classical Dance ~ Atma Rama ~ Natyamudra School of Dance ~ Liza Joseph Ode to Lord Rama — This devotional dance honors Lord Rama's compassion and grace, chanting His sacred names as protector and embodiment of eternal truth and bliss. Anvi Iyer, Theresa John, Likita Kalabundi	1:50 p
21	Talk ~ Yoga and Wellness Information ~ Brahma Kumari Group Brahma Kumaris — Founded in 1937, the Brahma Kumaris is a worldwide spiritual movement headquartered in Mount Abu, India, focused on soul-consciousness, Raja Yoga meditation, and personal transformation. Members of the Brahma Kumari Group	1:55 p
22	Semi Classical Dance~ Jaya Janardana ~ Natyamudra School of Dance ~ Liza Joseph Ode to Lord Krishna — This semi-classical dance celebrates Lord Krishna's beauty, playfulness, and eternal love as the beloved of Radha and protector of all beings. Aurora Edwards, Olivia Gurusaran, Ira Puranik, Arya Singh, Dhriti Yogesh	2:00 p
23	Marathi Dance ~ Mangalagaur ~ WMM Marathi Mandal ~ Rupali Raut ~ Directed by Aarati Kumthekar Mangalagaur — This traditional Maharashtrian dance weaves together rhythmic folk games and life-defining moments, set to percussion beats of 4 or 8. Sonali Borse, Ashiwini Deshpande, Suchitra Joshi, Rupali Raut	2:05 p
24	South Indian Mashup ~ Trinethra Dance School ~ Bhavya Shree Tollywood Medley — A high-energy freestyle dance celebrating South Indian cinema through iconic Telugu and Tamil hits, including the global sensation "Naatu Naatu." Kashika Goel, Bhavya Shree, Jahnvi Shah, Nancy Shah, Pragya Tiwari, Maitri Vyas	2:10 p
25	Marathi Lavani ~ Mala Jaudya Na Ghari Aata vajle Ki Baara ~ Rupali Raut This traditional Maharashtrian dance, performed in nine-yard sarees, follows dancers playfully begging their audience to let them go home in time to catch the midnight train. Sonali Borse, Ashiwini Deshpande, Rupali Raut	2:15 p
26	Jugalbandi of Flute & Sitar ~ Director: Amita Ajmera Vande Mataram (Instrumental) — This rendition in Raga Desh features 11-year-old Keshar Borse on sitar alongside Vimla Bhat on flute. Keshar Borse, Vimla Bhat	2:20 p
27	Patriotic Song ~ Durga Temple Senior Group ~ Song Conductor Chander Ahuja and Jitender Abbi Aye Mere Pyare Watan — This patriotic song from the film Kabuliwala is a heartfelt tribute to one's beloved homeland. Jethinder Abbi, Kavita Kapoor, Usha Kapoor, Pragya Khanna, Ranjana Sahai, Promila Saxena, Deven Sharma, Neena Sharma, and Rani Singla... Chander Ahuja (Harmonium), Sohan Chaddha (Dholak)	2:30 p
28	CTMM Dhol Tasha Pathak - Naadbrahma ~ Jotsna Kurkute ~ Directors: Yogendra Bhosrekar, Prathmesh Sawarkar, Medha Kelakar Dhol-Tasha — This award-winning CTMM team performs traditional Maharashtrian dhol-tasha with dhvaj, zanjh, lezim, and tall, celebrating a rhythmic art form integral to Maharashtra's cultural fabric. Performed by Members of Connecticut Maharashtra Mandal (CTMM)	2:40 p
30	Reception of the Honored Guests and Sponsor Recognition	3:00 p
32	Pani Puri Eating Contest	4:00 p
34	Fashion Show - Organizer Priti Rajdev Showcasing India's heritage through our runway show in visually distinct segments tailored to the geography of each state Krishna Bhrambaht, Sarika Bindal, Sonali Borse, Nili Dave, Nili Dave, Swati Desai, Ashwini Deshpande, Rajul Inamdar, Suchitra Joshi, Shilpa Mehta, Nita Parikh, Uma Patel, Veena Puri, Priti Rajdev, Rupali Raut, Rajoo Shah, Hetal Sutaria, Chitra Taneja, Daksha Thaker, Hiral Trivedi, Nipa Vasya	4:50 p
35	Patriotic Song ~ Movie Jis Desh Mein Ganga Beheti Hai ~ Jitender Abbi Jis Desh Mein Ganga Behti Hai — This patriotic song, originally sung by Manna Dey with music by Shankar Jaikishan, celebrates the greatness of Bharat and the sacred river Ganga. Music by Chander Ahuja, Dholak : Sohan Chaddha, Jitender Abbi, Usha Kapoor	5:05 p
36	American Traditional songs ~ Celebrating Americas 250th Birthday ~ Abhilash Tiwari "A Patriotic Medley" in the honor of US 250th anniversary and to emphasise Universal Brotherhood. Abhilash Tiwari, Aditi, Adya Tiwari	5:20 p
37	Dance ~ Shivaaya Dance Academy ~ Bollywood Indian Dance Style ~ Rohan Virdi Malhari — Shivaay Dance Academy presents an energetic performance inspired by the fearless spirit of Maratha warriors, celebrating courage, triumph, and pride. Zack Bernard, Rayna Gupta, Sanam Kangro, Varun Rachakonda, Kaira Sukul	5:30 p
38	Kirtan ~ Anand Marg Pracaraka Sangha ~ Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar Baba Nam Kevalam Kirtan — Six members of Ananda Marga perform this devotional kirtan, meaning "Love is the Essence." Dan Frusinoiu, Arun Jacobson, Nada Khader, Dada Jiteshananda, Dada Mahaviirananda, Didi Ananda Vikiirna	5:35 p

The program schedule is subject to change based upon arrival and readiness of the participants.



Proclamation by Westchester County

Office of the County Executive
Westchester County, New York

Proclamation

Whereas

A GREAT COUNTY IS ONLY AS GREAT AS THOSE ORGANIZATIONS AND ITS MEMBERS WHO GIVE EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO THEIR COMMUNITIES, WHETHER THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN CULTURAL EVENTS, THROUGH UNIQUE PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS, OR SIMPLY THROUGH A LIFETIME OF GOOD CITIZENRY; AND

WHEREAS

FOR MORE THAN FIFTY (50) YEARS, THE INDIAN AMERICAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF WESTCHESTER (IACAW) HAS BEEN SERVING THE INDIAN COMMUNITY OF WESTCHESTER. IT IS THEREFORE FITTING, THAT WE JOIN WITH OUR RESIDENTS OF INDIAN HERITAGE TO CELEBRATE THEIR CULTURE, RECOGNIZING THAT CULTURAL DIVERSITY NOT ONLY STRENGTHENS OUR COUNTY BUT ALSO OUR COMMON BOND OF HUMANITY; AND

WHEREAS

THE IACAW AND THE HERITAGE OF INDIA FESTIVAL COMMITTEE ARE THE EMBODIMENT OF CULTURAL RESPONSIBILITY THAT HIGHLIGHTS INDIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE THROUGHOUT WESTCHESTER COUNTY; AND

WHEREAS

THE INDIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL BRINGS INDIA, ITS HERITAGE AND CULTURE TO THE RESIDENTS OF WESTCHESTER COUNTY, THROUGH PRESENTATIONS OF INDIAN CULTURE, ARTS AND CRAFTS, INDIAN FOLK DANCE, MUSIC, A FASHION SHOW, INDIAN ASTROLOGERS AND REGIONAL VARIETIES OF INDIAN CUISINE; AND

WHEREAS

EVERY YEAR, FOR THE LAST TWENTY-SIX (26) YEARS, IACAW AND THE HERITAGE OF INDIA FESTIVAL COMMITTEE HAS BEEN HOSTING THE FESTIVAL SHOWCASING INDIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE IN OUR COUNTY, AND HIGHLIGHTING THE IMPORTANCE OF WESTCHESTER COUNTY'S ICONIC DIVERSITY THAT MAKES OUR COUNTY A GREAT PLACE IN WHICH TO LIVE AND WORK; AND

WHEREAS

IT IS MY DISTINCT HONOR TO JOIN WITH DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE JOAN McDONALD, TO RECOGNIZE THE MEMBERS OF THE INDIAN AMERICAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF WESTCHESTER AND THE HERITAGE OF INDIA FESTIVAL COMMITTEE, ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 26TH HERITAGE OF INDIA FESTIVAL; AND, NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, THAT I, KENNETH W. JENKINS, COUNTY EXECUTIVE OF WESTCHESTER COUNTY, DO HEREBY DECLARE **AUGUST 2, 2026**, TO BE INDIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE DAY, IN THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER, IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK, AND ENCOURAGE ALL OF THE RESIDENTS OF WESTCHESTER COUNTY TO JOIN IN THIS IMPORTANT CULTURAL OBSERVANCE.

WESTCHESTER
COUNTY

Kenneth W. Jenkins, Westchester County Executive

Given Under My Hand and Seal this 2nd Day of August 2026

Kenneth W. Jenkins
Westchester County Executive



Presentation of Proclamation by County Executive of Westchester County Kenneth Jenkins



From left to right:

IACAW President Elect & HIF Co-Chair, **Harry Singh**

Westchester County Executive, **Hon. Kenneth Jenkins**

IACAW President & HIF Co-Chair, **Pankaj Mehta**

IACAW Youth Advisor & HIF Deputy Chair, **Vaishali Bhattacharyya**



From left to right:

Top: Rohit Panday, Jagdish Mistry, Vaishali Bhattacharyya, Chitra Taneja

Bottom: Hiral Trivedi, Promila Saxena, Harry Singh, Ken Jenkins, Pankaj Mehta,
Rajoo Shah, Niyati Parikh, Dinbandhu Shah



Kenneth W. Jenkins
Westchester County Executive



August 2, 2026

Dear Friends,

It is my great honor to join with Deputy County Executive, Joan McDonald, the Indian American Cultural Association of Westchester and the Heritage of India Festival Committee to celebrate the 26th Heritage of India Festival at Kensico Dam.

Each year this celebration brings India and its heritage to the communities of Westchester County, through exhibitions of Indian culture, arts and crafts, Indian folk dance and music, fashion show, Indian astrology and Indian cuisine.

This annual event brings together Westchester County residents from all different cultures throughout our County, who joyfully celebrate with their fellow citizens of Indian heritage and culture. This wonderful celebration is a great reflection of the cultural diversity that makes our County a great place in which to live and work.

This celebration shows that when we as a people throughout the diaspora of our County celebrate each other, we are stronger together. On behalf of the residents of Westchester County,

May you all have a glorious event!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Jenkins".

Kenneth W. Jenkins
Westchester County Executive

Office of the County Executive
Michaelian Office Building
148 Martine Avenue
White Plains, New York 10601

Email: ce@westchestercountyNY.gov
Telephone: (914)995-2900



Binaya S. Pradhan



**Consul General of India
New York**

June 18, 2026

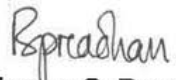
MESSAGE

On behalf of the Consulate General of India, New York, I extend my congratulations to the Indian American Cultural Association of Westchester and the Heritage of India Festival Committee on the 26th Heritage of India Festival.

For more than five decades, the Association has played a commendable role in preserving and promoting India's rich cultural heritage and strengthening bonds within the Westchester community. The Festival has become a vibrant celebration of India's diversity, presenting its music, dance, arts, crafts, traditions, fashion and regional cuisines to audiences of all backgrounds.

Such initiatives deepen mutual understanding, foster community harmony and showcase the invaluable contribution of the Indian American community to the cultural fabric of the United States. I applaud the organizers, volunteers, artists and supporters whose dedication has sustained this cherished tradition.

I convey my best wishes for a joyous and successful Festival and for the Association's continued service to the community.


(Binaya S. Pradhan)

**Mr. Jagdish Mistry, P.E.
Chair – Community Relations and Publicity
Indian American Cultural Association of Westchester**

Consulate General of India
3 East 64th Street, New York, N.Y. 10065 (USA)
Tel: CG Office (212) 774-0622/0621
E-mail: cg.newyork@mea.gov.in; cgooffice.newyork@mea.gov.in
Website: www.india.newyork.gov.in



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3203

August 2, 2026

Dear Friends:

Please accept my warmest greetings as you gather with the Indian American Cultural Association of Westchester (IACAW) and the Heritage of India Festival Committee for its 26th Heritage of India Festival. I am grateful for the opportunity to recognize the outstanding work of IACAW on behalf of the Indian American community throughout New York, along with its leadership, members, and all those here today.

Since its inception in 1973, the Indian American Cultural Association of Westchester has remained steadfast in its mission to promote and preserve Indian heritage by showcasing its art, literature, and music to Westchester residents. Throughout its rich history, IACAW has prioritized demonstrating its culture to future generations to bring a sense of pride to younger members. Additionally, the Association goes further in serving the Indian American community through its Senior Program and Youth Group. Its Senior Program has worked tirelessly to promote holistic well-being, preserve culture traditions, and empower seniors throughout the community. Through its Youth Group, the Association has empowered Indian American youth throughout Westchester County through leadership development, promotion of cultural identity, and community engagement.

For over two decades, the Indian American Cultural Association of Westchester has hosted the Heritage of India Festival, bringing hundreds of residents together in celebration of India's rich cultural traditions. Through arts and crafts, music, dance, and cuisine, Westchester residents are able to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of India's vibrant cultural heritage.

On behalf of all New Yorkers, thank you for your tireless efforts to promote and preserve Indian heritage throughout New York. I know that the Association will continue its incredible work for years to come. Best wishes for a wonderful event!

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator

*United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510*

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer

PROCLAMATION

Whereas: On the second day of August in the year two-thousand and twenty-six, the Indian American Cultural Association of Westchester (IACAW) will host its 26th Heritage of India Festival in partnership with the Heritage of India Festival Committee; and

Whereas: The Indian American Cultural Association of Westchester has served as a premier cultural organization throughout Westchester County for over 50 years. Since its inception, the Association has remained steadfast in its mission to promote Indian culture and heritage to the Indian American community and future generations. Through its outstanding efforts, IACAW has worked to preserve and celebrate its cultural heritage by hosting events focused on Indian music, art, dance, literature, and theater; and

Whereas: The Indian American Cultural Association of Westchester has also positively impacted Indian Americans throughout Westchester through its Senior Program and Youth Group. Its Senior Program has enriched the lives of seniors within the community by providing a safe and inclusive space where they can connect, engage, and thrive. Additionally, the Association's Youth Group works with young people throughout the community to foster connection, leadership, cultural pride, and identity; and

Whereas: Today, the Indian American Cultural Association of Westchester will bring Indian culture and heritage to hundreds of people throughout Westchester County. Each year, this festival showcases India's rich traditions through presentations of culture, arts and crafts, Indian folk dances, music, and Indian cuisine, while bringing communities together throughout the tri-state area; and therefore,

Be It Known: That I, Senator Charles E. Schumer, do hereby recognize and celebrate the 26th Heritage of India Festival as well as the hard work and dedication of the Indian American Cultural Association of Westchester. I know that IACAW will continue these spectacular efforts for years to come. Best wishes for a wonderful event!

*Signed this 2nd Day of August in the Year
Two Thousand and Twenty-Six*

Charles Schumer

Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



MICHAEL V. LAWLER
17TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK
HOUSE FINANCIAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE
HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE
lawler.house.gov



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3217

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3217
(202) 225-6506

DISTRICT OFFICE:
ONE BLUE HILL PLAZA
THIRD FLOOR, P.O. BOX 1645
PEARL RIVER, NY 10965
(845) 201-2060

CARMEL TOWN HALL
60 MCALPIN AVENUE
MAHOEAC, NY 10541
(845) 743-7130

Friends and Neighbors,

It is my privilege to extend heartfelt congratulations to the Indian American Cultural Association of Westchester (IACAW) on the occasion of your 26th Annual Heritage of India Festival at Kensico Dam Plaza.

For more than fifty years, IACAW has showcased the rich history, traditions, and contributions of the Indian community throughout Westchester County and the Hudson Valley. The Heritage of India Festival has become a signature celebration, bringing families and visitors together each year to experience Indian culture through music, dance, cuisine, educational exhibits, and traditions that honor a proud heritage while strengthening community connections.

I am honored to represent New York's 17th Congressional District, home to a thriving Indian American community whose contributions strengthen our economy, enrich our culture, and enhance the quality of life throughout our region. Organizations like IACAW play an important role in preserving cultural traditions and helping make the Hudson Valley such a welcoming place to live.

As a member of the Congressional India Caucus and the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I have seen firsthand the importance of the relationship between the United States and India. I remain committed to supporting efforts that strengthen the ties between our nations and recognize the invaluable contributions of Indian Americans across New York and the country.

Thank you for your continued leadership and dedication to promoting Indian culture and heritage. I wish everyone attending this year's festival a wonderful celebration and another successful year of bringing our community together.

Sincerely,

Michael V. Lawler
Member of Congress
New York, 17th District





ANDREA STEWART-COUSINS

NEW YORK STATE SENATE, 35TH DISTRICT

PRESIDENT PRO TEM ♦ MAJORITY LEADER

August 2, 2026

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to have this opportunity to welcome you to **The Indian American Cultural Association of Westchester and Heritage of India Festival Committee's 25th Heritage of India Festival**. For more than 50 years, the Indian American Cultural Association of Westchester has been serving our community through the promotion of Indian culture.

This annual festival plays an important role in preserving and celebrating India's rich heritage and traditions in Westchester County. Through vibrant demonstrations of Indian art, folk dance, fashion, astrology, and cuisine, the festival offers a meaningful opportunity for the community to experience and appreciate the depth and diversity of Indian culture. I am honored to recognize this celebration and grateful for the opportunity to support an event that fosters cultural understanding and brings people together.

Thank you for your dedication to enriching the cultural fabric of Westchester County. Your continued involvement with **the Indian American Cultural Association of Westchester and the Heritage of India Festival Committee** helps strengthen our community by promoting diversity, heritage, and inclusion. I hope you enjoy this special occasion with family and friends and leave with an even greater appreciation for India's enduring traditions, vibrant culture, and lasting contributions.

Best Wishes,

Andrea Stewart-Cousins
New York State Senator, 35th District
President Pro Tem, Majority Leader

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STATE OF NEW YORK



SHELLEY B. MAYER
SENATOR, 37TH DISTRICT

MAJORITY ASSISTANT WHIP
CO-CHAIR OF THE LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMISSION

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ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
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(518) 426-6860 FAX

□ DISTRICT OFFICE:
235 MAMARONECK AVE.
SUITE 400
WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK 10605
(914) 934-5250 OFFICE
(914) 948-2469 FAX

SMAYER@NYSenate.GOV

August 2, 2026

Dear Friends:

Congratulations to the **Indian American Cultural Association of Westchester** and the **Heritage of India Festival Committee** on the occasion of their **26th Heritage of India Festival**, an event that acknowledges and celebrates the important role this outstanding institution has played in Westchester County for more than 50 years. The Association forges connections in our communities through engagement with Indian culture, and the festival is a wonderful opportunity for people of all ages to engage with Indian arts and crafts, folk dances, music, and fashion, and to sample the delicious regional varieties of Indian cuisine.



I would like to commend the Festival Chairs, Pankaj Mehta and Harry Singh, Festival Deputy Chair Vaishali Bhattacharyya, and all of the committee chairs for the extraordinary time, effort, and care they have devoted to making this event a success.

Congratulations to the Indian American Cultural Association of Westchester for the indispensable work it does to engage and inspire the community and to the Heritage of India Festival Committee for its dedication to uplifting the community by sharing the beauty of Indian culture.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shelley B. Mayer".

Shelley B. Mayer



**Office of the New York State
Attorney General**

**Letitia James
Attorney General**

August 2, 2026

Heritage of India Festival
1 Bronx River Parkway
Valhalla, New York 10595

Dear Friends:

I am delighted to offer a warm welcome to everyone who has gathered for the 26th Heritage of India Festival. Please accept my best wishes as you celebrate this special occasion.

For more than two decades, the Heritage of India Festival has played a key role in raising awareness about the many contributions made by the Indian-American community. Through presentations, arts and crafts, and folk dances and music, this inspiring event empowers individuals from all walks of life to experience the sights, sounds, and tastes of Indian heritage and culture. I applaud the festival's continued advocacy on behalf of the Indian-American community.



**New York State Attorney General
Letitia James**

Once again, best wishes for the day's festivities. I am sure it will be a joyful occasion. I wish the Heritage of India Festival much success with its future endeavors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Letitia James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

LETITIA JAMES

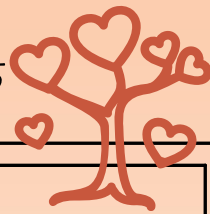




Past Heritage of India







Her Memories, My Inheritance

My grandmother does not tell me stories from history books. She tells me stories from her life. Whenever we sit together, her memories of Partition return as if they happened yesterday. I have heard these stories many times, but each time I listen, I learn something new about her, my family, and myself.

She was a young girl during the Partition of India in 1947. Her family lived in what became Pakistan. They were Hindu. Violence spread across towns and villages. Families fled because staying meant risking their lives. My grandmother's family left everything behind.

She tells me about the train ride more than anything else. The trains were built to carry animals, not people. Every inch was full. Families stood shoulder to shoulder for hours. Some mothers gave birth during the journey. There were no doctors, no hospitals, and no privacy. People shared water, food, and space because everyone faced the same fear.

When her family reached India, they did not have a home waiting for them. They stayed in a refugee camp until they found a place to live. Before Partition, her parents owned a rug business in Pakistan. They left all of it behind. They did not return for their home, their business, or their belongings. They started over with nothing.

Even after all those years, my grandmother remembers the small details. She tells me how she went to school with her sisters on a bail gadi pulled by oxen. She tells me what people wore every day. She remembers families making gold jewelry by hand and wearing pieces passed down through generations. Those memories survived even when homes did not.

When I hear these stories, I think about my own life. I wake up each day without worrying about losing my home or leaving everything behind. I go to school without fear. I speak about my future without wondering if I will have one. My grandmother never had those choices when she was my age.

Her stories changed how I see my heritage. Before, Partition felt like a date in a history textbook. Now I see faces, families, and lives. I understand why my grandparents value education, hard work, and family. They build a new life after losing the first one they had.

The theme of this year's festival is Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, the world is one family. My grandmother's story gives those words meaning. In the middle of so much loss, people still found ways to care for one another. Families who had lost everything stood together. They shared food, comfort, and hope. Those moments remind me that family reached beyond blood. Family grows when people choose compassion.

My grandmother carried her memories across a border. She passes them to me through conversations around the dinner table. I will carry them forward. Her story is part of my family's history. It is part of who I am.



Between Two Skies

When my family packed 8 suitcases and all of our belongings to move to the U.S. almost 4 years ago, I thought “home” was something you could physically leave behind. I thought home was the specific honks of the autos outside my window in Delhi, the taste of the local bakeries cream rolls, the monsoon rain hitting the concrete.

When we first landed here everything felt too quiet and too wide open. The supermarkets were the size of football fields, but none of them smelt like the ones I knew. For the first 2 years I was always in a state of comparison. I was physically here but my mind was stuck in a time capsule back in India.

The shift happened gradually, and it didn't happen because I suddenly became "Americanized". It happened when I stopped looking at my life as a split screen. I stopped viewing New York and Delhi as competing versions of reality where one had to win and the other had to lose. Instead, I started letting them bleed into each other. I realized that home wasn't trapped in the geography I left behind, nor was it entirely locked in the suburban quiet of my new neighborhood. Home was something fluid.

It was the way my mom managed to make our American kitchen smell like cardamom on a rainy Tuesday afternoon. It was the moment I realized I could transition seamlessly from listening to hip hop on the bus to singing along to Bollywood songs in the car with my parents. Belonging to 2 cultures felt like a constant tug of war, a pressure to choose a side. But now I see it as a superpower. By embracing both, my world hasn't shrunk, it actually expanded. I carry Delhi in my traditions, my values and my memories, while building a future right here.

The ancient phrase **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam** reminds us that the world is one family. If the whole world is one family, then “home” can never be confined to a single dot on a map. Home isn't just where you come from, or where you land, it's the space you create within yourself, carrying your heritage proudly wherever you go.



Academic Merit Awards

IACAW believes in promoting, supporting and sponsoring events that foster literary curiosity and intellectual talents of youth in our community. With this in mind, we are pleased to announce the following awards sponsored by The Desai Family.

"May Goddess Saraswati Guide You To The Path Of Excellence in Education" -

Kirit and Dr. Panna Desai

**Chhabildas and
Santaben Desai SAT
Award**

\$751 Prize will be given
to the applicant with
the highest SAT score

**Shantilal and
Kantaben Shah
ACT Award**

\$751 Prize will be given
to the applicant with
the highest ACT score

**Dr. Panna and
Kirit Desai
PSAT Award**

\$501 Prize will be
given to the applicant
with the highest PSAT
score

Eligibility Criteria

- The candidate is able to apply for all three awards simultaneously
- The candidate must be of Indian origin (at least one Indian parent) living in Westchester County, NY
- The candidate should be a high school student or just graduated
- The candidate must have a parent who is a voting member of IACAW for a minimum of 2 years including the year of application
- Children of the sponsors are not eligible for participation
- The candidate or one of the family members should be present at the award presentation ceremony
- For questions contact Dinbandhu Shah: shahdinbandhu@gmail.com or president@iacaw.org

Application should be postmarked by Friday, November 6, 2026

Applicants should mail a copy of their College Board ACT/SAT/PSAT report(s) as well as brief personal information, accomplishments & future goals to:

IACAW Academic Merit Awards Committee
P.O. Box 358
Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522

The IACAW Awards Committee's decisions are final.

**The awards will be presented at the IACAW Membership Dinner on
Sunday, Dec 5, 2026.**



CONGRATULATIONS

**INDIAN AMERICAN CULTURAL
ASSOCIATION OF WESTCHESTER**

For

**Excellent community work &
the 2026 HERITAGE OF INDIA FESTIVAL**

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Akash Dhiman

Simran Dhiman

Sahana Dhiman



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**Congratulations to
IACAW
for their 26th HIF!**

LOCATION & INFO



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**Congratulations to
IACAW
for their 26th HIF!**

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Saturday: 9 AM - 4 PM
Sunday: CLOSED



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THE
HERITAGE
OF

*India
Festival*



Joshi Family Catastrophe Fund



Joshi Family Catastrophic Help Education Fund Availability Notification – 2026

Indian American Cultural Association of Westchester is very grateful to announce availability of the Joshi Family Catastrophic Help-Education Fund, fully contributed and set up by

Dr. Anil and Anju Joshi

If you know any qualifying candidate/s, please feel free to refer them to IACAW to apply for assistance.

Please send a letter of interest / need to:

IACAW – Joshi Family Catastrophe Fund
P.O. Box 358, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522
OR

Visit www.iacaw.org to download an application.

Eligibility and Grant Awarding Criteria

- The applicant family shall be an IACAW member for at least one full calendar year prior to the catastrophe. For example, if a member experiences a catastrophe during FY 2026, the family must be an IACAW Annual or Life member for the calendar year 2024 and must have paid the membership dues by the last day of the month of June of the previous year, which in this example is June 30, 2025; and
 - *The “Catastrophe” here means “a sudden death or disaster or misfortune with one or both parents becoming permanently or temporarily disabled, which results in the substantial loss of income-earning activities either permanently or temporarily as they did prior to the catastrophe.”*
- An income-earning member of the family has died or became suddenly sick or physically incapacitated for any reason, preventing the member from working and earning the income necessary to support their family; and
- The family member currently has at least one of their biological/legal child/children enrolled full-time in an accredited undergraduate program in the United States; and
- The family receiving the grant is eligible to reapply once during the calendar year for the grant when eligible; and
- The family has submitted a completed attached Application Form; and
- The completed application includes all necessary supporting documents that may include, but are not limited to, the following: full-time enrollment in a U.S.-accredited undergraduate program-related supporting documents; medical or other documents supporting the medical or other catastrophe; out-of-work/loss-of-income-related supporting documents; previous-year income tax returns; and current income support to prove the substantial reduction of income impacting the educational support to their biological/legal child/children, etc.
- The “Joshi Family Catastrophic Help-Education Fund Committee” will determine the final award of up to \$10,000 to the eligible applicant until the contributed fund balance is fully awarded.
- The “Joshi Family Catastrophic Help-Education Fund Committee’s” decision will be final in all matters

Congratulation IACAW 2026 Leadership
on celebrating 26th Heritage of India Festival



Best Wishes

Dr. Anil and Anju Joshi

Indian National Anthem



Title: Jana Gana Mana
Music by: Rabindranath Tagore
Lyrics by: Rabindranath Tagore

Written on: December 11, 1911
First Sung on: December 27, 1911

It was officially declared as National Anthem on January 24, 1950.

'Jana Gana Mana', India's national anthem depicts the country's religious and regional diversity and unity. The Anthem, originally called "Bharat Bhagya Bidhata" is written in Bengali, but it is written such that it's understood throughout India's multiple languages and dialects. It conveys the traditions and values that we still hold strong. These values include acceptance, tolerance and pluralism. The national anthem is still being played to this day at schools, cinemas, military bases and before the start of sporting events.

Original

Jana gana mana adhi naayaka jaya hai!
Bhaarat bhaagya vidhaata
Punjab Sindh Gujarat Maraatha, Dravid Utkala
Bangaa.
Vindhya Himachala Yamuna Ganga,
Uchhala jaladhi taranga.
Tava shubh naame jaage,
Tava shubh aashish maage,
Gahe tava jaya-gaatha.
Jana-gana-mangaladayaka jaya hai!
Bharat bhagya vidhata.
Jaya hai! Jaya hai! Jaya hai!
Jaya Jaya Jaya Jaya hai!

Translation

~ Thou art the ruler of the minds of all people,
~ Dispenser of India's destiny.
~ The name rouses the hearts of Punjab, Sind,
Gujarat and Maratha, Of the Dravid and
Orissa and Bengal;
~ It echoes in the hills of the Vindhyas and
Himalayas, Mingles in the music of the
Yamuna and Ganga
~ And is chanted by the waves of the Indian Sea.
~ They pray for thy blessings and sing thy praise.
~ The salvation of all people is in thy hand,
~ Thou dispenser of India's destiny.
~ Victory, victory, victory to thee.





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— ◆ —
Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam

— ◆ — *The World is One Family* — ◆ —

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The World is One Family — and Every Family Shares a Meal

Niyati Parikh

“Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” — meaning “The World is One Family” — is a timeless Indian philosophy that beautifully reflects the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita. It reminds us that beyond differences of religion, nationality, language, or culture, all human beings are connected as one universal family.

India is a beautiful blend of ancient wisdom, vibrant culture, modern innovation, and heartfelt unity — perfectly reflected in this inspiring image of the Heritage of India Festival 2026. From majestic temples and classical dance to yoga, technology, and community spirit, the poster captures the soul of India: a nation deeply rooted in tradition while reaching for the future.

One of the greatest ways India brings people together is through its food. Indian cuisine is not just about spices — it is about love, hospitality, diversity, and celebration. Every region tells its own story through flavors: the rich curries of the north, the fragrant rice dishes of the south, the colorful street foods of Mumbai and Delhi, the sweets of Bengal, and the vibrant vegetarian traditions of Gujarat and Rajasthan.

Food in India is a celebration of family and togetherness — where meals are shared, guests are welcomed warmly, and recipes are passed down through generations. Just like the message in this image, “The World is One Family,” Indian food connects people across cultures, backgrounds, and generations.



Recipe by Niyati Parikh

Butter Chicken

Region: North India

TIME: Prep: 60 min
Cook Time: 25 min

SERVINGS: 4

Ingredients

For Marinade

- 500 g boneless chicken
- ½ cup yogurt
- 1 tbsp ginger-garlic paste
- 1 tsp turmeric
- 1 tsp chili powder
- 1 tsp salt

For Gravy

- 3 tbsp butter
- 1 tsp oil
- 2 cups tomato puree
- 1 tbsp ginger-garlic paste
- 1 tsp garam masala
- 1 tsp chili powder
- 1 tsp sugar
- ¾ cup cream
- Salt to taste



Directions

1. Marinate chicken for 30-60 minutes.
2. Cook chicken in a pan until lightly charred.
3. Heat butter and oil; sauté ginger-garlic paste.
4. Add tomato puree and cook 10-12 minutes.
5. Add spices, sugar, and salt.
6. Stir in cream, then add chicken and simmer 10 minutes.



Tip: This dish tastes even better the next day as flavors deepen. Refrigerate for up to 3 days or freeze for up to a month. Reheat gently on low heat.



Recipe by Niyati Parikh

Rasgulla Tres Leches Cake **Fusion Dessert**

TIME: Prep: 20 mins
Cook Time: 30 min
Chill Time: 6 hr or overnight

SERVINGS: 8-10

Soft sponge cake soaked in three milks with juicy Bengali rasgullas.



Ingredients

- Vanilla sponge cake
- Evaporated milk
- Condensed milk
- Heavy cream
- Rasgullas
- Rose petals



Directions

1. Bake sponge cake.
2. Mix the three-milk syrup.
3. Poke holes and soak the cake.
4. Top with whipped cream.
5. Add squeezed rasgullas.
6. Chill overnight.



Tip: Squeeze the rasgullas gently before adding them – this prevents the cake from becoming too wet while still letting their subtle rose and cardamom flavor seep into the cream. And don't rush the chill – overnight is non-negotiable for this one!

Recipe by Niyati Parikh

Shrikhand Panna Cotta **Fusion Dessert**

TIME: Prep: 15 mins
Cook Time: 10 min
Chill Time: 4-6 hr or overnight

SERVINGS: 8-10

Gujarati/Maharashtrian shrikhand transformed into silky Italian panna cotta.



Ingredients

- Greek yogurt
- Cream
- Sugar
- Saffron
- Cardamom
- Gelatin or agar agar
- Mango cubes or pistachios



Directions

1. Warm cream with saffron and sugar.
2. Add gelatin or agar agar.
3. Mix with thick yogurt.
4. Pour into molds and chill.
5. Serve topped with mango and pistachio

Tip: Use hung yogurt or strain Greek yogurt for an extra hour before mixing – the thicker it is, the silkier the panna cotta. And if using agar agar instead of gelatin, the set will be firmer, so reduce the quantity slightly.



Recipe by Niyati Parikh

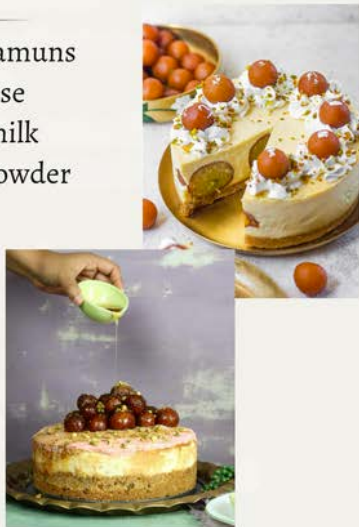
Gulab Jamun Cheesecake **Fusion Dessert**

TIME: Prep: 15 mins SERVINGS: 8-10
Cook Time: 60 min
Chill Time: 4-6 hr or overnight

Classic North Indian gulab jamun meets creamy New York-style cheesecake.

Ingredients

- 10-12 mini gulab jamuns
- 2 cups cream cheese
- 1 cup condensed milk
- 1 tsp cardamom powder
- Biscuit crust
- Saffron strands
- Pistachios



Directions

1. Prepare biscuit crust in a cake pan.
2. Blend cream cheese, condensed milk, and cardamom.
3. Pour half the filling into the pan.
4. Add gulab jamuns in the center.
5. Cover with remaining batter.
6. Bake until set.
7. Chill and garnish with saffron and pistachios.



Tip: The secret to this fusion dessert is patience — chill it overnight if you can. The gulab jamun syrup slowly seeps into the cream cheese filling, creating the most beautifully fragrant, melt-in-your-mouth layers. It's worth every hour of waiting!

Recipe by Niyati Parikh

Filter Coffee Tiramisu **Fusion Dessert**

TIME: Prep: 20 mins SERVINGS: 8-10
Cook Time: 0 min
Chill Time: 4-6 hr or overnight

Italian tiramisu made with strong South Indian filter coffee.

Ingredients

- Strong filter coffee
- Mascarpone cheese
- Whipped cream
- Ladyfinger biscuits
- Jaggery powder
- Cocoa powder



Directions

1. Brew strong filter coffee and cool.
2. Mix mascarpone, whipped cream, and jaggery.
3. Dip ladyfingers briefly in coffee.
4. Layer cream and biscuits.
5. Chill for 4-6 hours.
6. Dust with cocoa before serving.



Tip: The secret is in the dip — hold each ladyfinger in the filter coffee for just 2 seconds. Any longer and they turn to mush; any shorter and they stay dry. And use real South Indian filter coffee decoction — the chicory depth makes all the difference.



Chickpea Flour "Sopes" with Roasted Tomato Ragù & Gira's Garden Mango-Habanero Crema.

Recipes by Gira Shah



Ingredients

- The From-Scratch Indian-Mexican Sopes
- 1 cup chickpea flour (besan)
- warm water as needed
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp carom seeds (ajwain) or cumin seeds (highly authentic touch)
- oil (for frying)
- The Quick scratch Ragù (Umami & Spice)
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 4 medium fresh Roma tomatoes, finely diced (using fresh instead of canned)
- 4-5 cremini mushrooms, finely minced (for rich, meat-like Italian texture)
- 1/2 red onion, finely diced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tsp fresh ginger, grated
- 2 tsp Garam Masala
- 1/2 tsp smoked paprika
- Salt to taste
- Gira's Garden Kesar Mango-Habanero Crema & Quick Cheese
- 3-4 tbsp of Limited Edition Kesar Mango & Habanero Hot Sauce
- 1/2 cup heavy cream + 1 tsp lime juice (whisked vigorously to instantly create fresh crema)
- Sprinkle Parmesan cheese, finely grated for the final touch
- Elegant Garnishes
- Fresh cilantro leaves
- Finely sliced radishes (for crisp Mexican styling)
- Crema Sauce



Direction

- In a small bowl, whisk the heavy cream and lime juice together for 30 seconds until it thickens, stir in Kesar Mango & Habanero Hot Sauce and set aside.
- Make the Sopa Dough/fry
- In a bowl, mix the chickpea flour, salt, and seeds. Gradually stir in the warm water until a soft dough forms. Flatten each ball into a thick/medium round shape and fry on slow flame like tostada.
- Turn the burner to medium-high. Add a little bit of oil into the pan and toss in the minced mushrooms. Sauté for few minutes until browned and fragrant.
- Add the onion, garlic, and ginger. Sauté, mix well.
- Stir in the garam masala and smoked paprika, mix well. Now, Toss in the fresh, finely diced tomatoes. Turn the heat down to medium, cover with the lid, and let them break down into thick gravy. Season with salt. Turn off the stove, it's ready to serve.

Beetroot Croquettes

Ingredients:

- Beet
- Potatoes
- Paneer
- Salt
- Crushed Ginger, Chilli, Garlic
- Cilantro
- Garam Masala
- Sugar
- Roasted Chickpea flour
- Roasted Peanut powder
- Lemon Juice
- All purpose flour
- Bread crumbs

Direction

- Boil potatoes and beet (partially). Grate beet, potatoes and paneer in a bowl.
- Mix all ingredients and make into round shape like patty.
- Make a thin batter using all purpose flour.
- Dip patty in batter and then in bread crumbs and Deep fry.

Vegetarian Kottu Roti Recipe by Kirtida Shah



Ingredients

- 3 day-old lacha parathas, shredded
- 1 cup firm tofu, pressed and cubed
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1½ tbsp ginger-garlic paste
- 1 cup shredded cabbage
- ½ cup shredded carrots
- ½ cup chopped leeks
- 2 green chilies, sliced
- ½ tsp fennel seeds
- ½ tsp mustard seeds
- 1 tsp chili flakes
- 1 tsp Kashmiri chili powder
- ½ tsp turmeric
- 1 tbsp soy sauce
- 1 tbsp miso paste
- ½ cup coconut milk
- ⅓ cup milk
- ⅓ cup water
- Salt and pepper
- Oil

Direction

- Sear tofu in a little oil until golden; set aside.
- In the same pan, bloom fennel and mustard seeds. Add onions and green chilies; sauté until softened. Stir in ginger-garlic paste and cook until fragrant.
- Add chili flakes, Kashmiri chili powder, and turmeric; cook for 1 minute.
- Stir-fry cabbage, carrots, and leeks for 3–4 minutes.
- Mix coconut milk, milk, water, soy sauce, and miso. Pour into the pan and bring to a gentle simmer.
- Add shredded parathas and tofu. Toss and chop with spatulas until the parathas absorb the sauce and become



Chicken Lachha Bites Recipe by Kamalika Pande



Ingredients

1. Chicken (boneless) - 250 gm
2. Yogurt - 50 gm
3. Cashew paste - 2 tsp
4. Onion paste - 4 tsp
5. Ginger garlic paste - 1/2 tsp
6. Nutmeg powder - 1/4 tsp.
7. Coriander powder - 1/2 tsp
8. All purposes flour - 250 gm
9. Ghee - 100 gm
10. Cheese - 50 gm
11. Kewra water - 20/30 ml
12. Water
13. Salt
14. Sugar
15. Chilli
16. White oil



Direction

- First knead the dough for lachha paratha.
- Take 250 gm of flour, add 70 ml ghee, cold water, salt, sugar and kewra water.
- Mix them well and knead for 8 to 10 mins.
- Cover with damp cloth for atleast 1/2 an hour.
- Mean while, cut the chicken into small cubes.
- Shallow fry them into white oil.
- Take out the chicken and add onion, paste and sauté for few minute.
- Then add Ginger garlic paste... fry them well.
- Add coriander powder, aging sauté.
- Then add Cashew paste, yogurt, sugar, and add chilli powder according to your taste. Cover it and cook well.
- When the chicken is cooked properly stir until gets dry. It will help to make bites easier.
- Chicken stuffing is done.
- Take the dough and make two lachha paratha and fry them well with ghee.
- Take one lachha paratha spread grated cheese. Then add the chicken evenly.
- Again sprinkle some cheese on top then cover with another paratha and cut into 4 conical pieces.
- Garnish with onion and lemon etc.
- Chicken Lachha bites is ready to enjoy.



Nolengur sandesh

Ingredients

1. Chena/paneer - 200 gm
2. Dates jagay - 200 gms
3. Khoya 50 gms (optional)

Direction

- Knead the chena or paneer make a smooth dough.
- Heat the pan add jaggery khoya and chena paste.
- Stir for 4/5 mins cool down.
- Serve with Cashew and jaggery.





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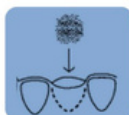
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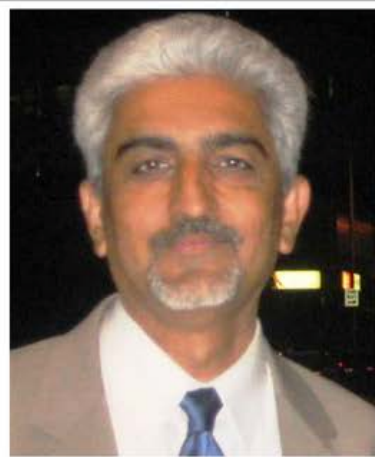
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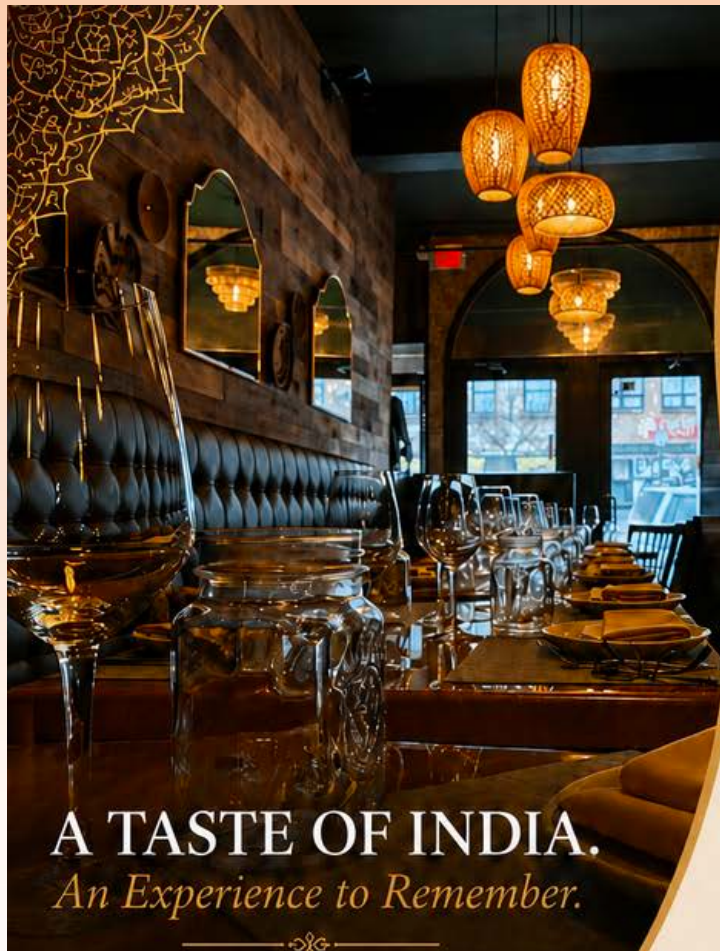
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IMPACT is honored to support the 2026 Heritage of India Festival and stand proudly with the Hindu community in celebrating culture, heritage, and the values that bring people together.

In a time of rising hate and division, friendship is our strength.
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We are grateful to IACAW and the Heritage of India Festival for bringing people together to celebrate India's rich heritage.
Together, we build bridges within and across communities.

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IMPACT is a nonprofit movement dedicated to organizing, empowering, and mobilizing the Jewish community and our allies to combat antisemitism and all forms of hate while amplifying resilience, Jewish pride, and unity.



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Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam — The World is One Family

By Vaishali Bhattacharyya

Long before the word "wellness" entered our modern vocabulary, the ancient sages of India already understood its deepest truth — that the health of the individual and the health of the collective were never separate. They gave us yoga, not as a series of postures to be perfected on a mat, but as a way of seeing. A way of living. A way of belonging to something far greater than ourselves.

And yet here we are — rushing, striving, scrolling — wondering why we feel so disconnected. From ourselves. From each other. From the very life we are working so hard to build.

This is where yoga meets us. Not on a mat. Not in a pose. But in the quiet recognition that we are more connected than we are separate.

Prana — life force — doesn't check your passport. It doesn't ask about your heritage or your history before it sustains your heartbeat. Every human being who has ever lived has drawn their first breath in the same way and will release their last in the same way. In this, we are already family.

In my practice, I return again and again to the understanding that the self we protect so fiercely — the self that draws lines and says mine and not yours — is not actually who we are. It is a layer. And beneath that layer, beneath the roles we carry and the stories we tell about ourselves, is something vast, shared, and unchanging.

The ancient sages called this **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam — The World is One Family**. Not a beautiful idea to hang on a wall. A lived truth. A practice. And what is that practice? It begins with Ahimsa — the choice to stop harming, in thought, in word, in the quiet judgments we make about people who feel different from us. It deepens with Aparigraha — the willingness to hold things lightly, including our own identity. It becomes, slowly, into something that feels less like a philosophy and more like a homecoming.

That is what I feel every year at the Heritage of India Festival. When thousands of people from every background imaginable gather together — not to debate or prove anything — but simply to share. A meal. A song. A story. A moment of pure, uncomplicated belonging. In those moments, the ancient teaching stops being ancient. It becomes now.

This is your invitation.

Not just to come to a festival. But to pause — even for one breath — and ask yourself: What becomes possible when I stop seeing the world as something to navigate and start seeing it as family? The answer, I believe, lives within you. It always has.

Come. Breathe. Belong.



Vaishali Bhattacharyya is the founder of Yogashali LLC

#Yogashali #TheYogashaliWay #MyYogashaliLife #YogashaliJourney





Thank you!

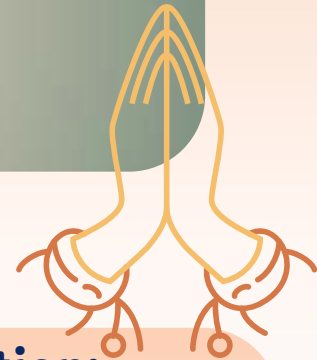
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With your help, we have been able to bring this festival to the community for the past 26 years, celebrating the rich and glorious heritage of India!

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Celebrating the Heritage of India Festival

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