

THE LOTUS

A Quarterly Publication of the Federation of India Community Associations (FICA)



Oct 2025 - Jan 2026

Since 1967

INSIDE

FICA Matters.....
pgs 1-5

Community News.....
pgs 4 - 16

*Please email us at:
Lotus.ficacleveland@
gmail.com*

Sign up to receive
The Lotus in your inbox at:

<http://www.ficacleveland.org/fica/lotusPage.html>

Or email us at:

lotus.ficacleveland@gmail.com



Republic Day Celebrations

Organized by FICA

January 31, 2026 at 6 pm

LOTUS BANQUET HALL - 5106 Great Northern Shop Center
North Olmsted, OH, 44070

AWARDS · CULTURAL PERFORMANCES · MUSIC · DANCE



Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CLEVELAND,
OHIO
PERMIT NO.
1051

FEDERATION OF INDIAN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 39474
Solon OH 44139
United States
Or Current Resident



FICASTAFF

Administration Board of Trustees

Sudarshan R. Sathe (Chairperson)
chairman.ficacleveland@gmail.com

Rupesh Raina (Vice Chairperson)
vicechairperson.ficacleveland@gmail.com

Swathi Desai (Secretary)
botsecretary.ficacleveland@gmail.com

Members

Guniya Bafna
Dinesh Bafna
Purshottam Punwani
Ritu Mahna
Rajesh Sharma
Dharminder Kampani

Executive Board

Shekhar Ganore (President)
president.ficacleveland@gmail.com

Manish Ishwar (Vice President)
vicepresident.ficacleveland@gmail.com

Deepa Rao (Secretary)
secretary.ficacleveland@gmail.com

Hemant Kanodia (Treasurer)
treasurer.ficacleveland@gmail.com

Deepak Sahoo (Co-Treasurer)

Officers

Amit Jain
Bhavin Patel
Somnath Roy
Parul Bafna
Jay Mendpara
Abhijeet Runwal

LOTUS

Deepa Rao (Editor in Chief)
Lotus.ficacleveland@gmail.com

Mahima Rao (Managing Editor)
Shivani Patel
Anika Rao (Youth Editor)
Ameeya Gargasha (Youth Editor)

Design and Layout
Santosh Bhandari

Publisher

The Federation of India Community Associations (FICA)

Project Seva

Utkarsh Hazarnis - Chair 216-502-8784

Helping Hands

Mrs. Guniya Bafna
HH.FICACleveland@gmail.com
440-346-8281

India Cultural Garden

Hira Rane - Chair
Icg.ficacleveland@gmail.com

Shiksha Daan

Harsha Rane- Chair
sangarg@aol.com

A Year of Unity, Culture, and Community: FICA's Journey Through 2025



President's Message

As we reflect upon the closing chapter of 2025, it is with immense gratitude and pride that I look back on a truly remarkable year for the Federation of Indian Community Associations (FICA). This year was not merely a series of events—it was a celebration of our shared heritage, collective spirit, and unwavering commitment to strengthening the Indian diaspora in our region.

We began the year on a patriotic and uplifting note with our Republic Day Celebration, honoring the values of democracy, unity, and diversity that define India. A special highlight of this event was the introduction of the Unsung Hero Awards and the continuation of our Student Achievement Awards, which recognize individuals who selflessly serve the community and students who exemplify academic excellence, leadership, and service. These awards reflected FICA's deep commitment to acknowledging dedication, inspiring excellence, and nurturing future leaders.

Spring arrived with vibrant colors and joyful energy through our Holi celebrations, where laughter, music, and the spirit of togetherness brought families and friends closer. Holi continues to symbolize inclusivity, renewal, and harmony—values that FICA proudly upholds. Promoting health, wellness, and sportsmanship, FICA successfully organized a Tennis Tournament, encouraging active lifestyles and friendly competition while strengthening community bonds beyond cultural celebrations.

Our patriotic fervor continued with the Independence Day Flag Hoisting Ceremony, a solemn and inspiring tribute to India's freedom fighters and the ideals they stood for. As the tricolor was unfurled, it served as a powerful reminder of our cultural identity and our responsibility to pass these values on to future generations.

One of the most anticipated family-centric events of the year was Anand Mela, which truly lived up to its name. With food stalls, vendor exhibitions/stalls, games, and community bonding, Anand Mela beautifully reflected the essence of FICA—bringing people together in happiness and unity.

As the festive season approached, FICA hosted Diwali at Cleveland City Hall, a vibrant celebration filled with cultural performances, traditional décor, and the warmth

of togetherness. The festival of lights illuminated not only the hall but also the strong sense of community that defines FICA.

Beyond celebrations, FICA remained deeply committed to community service. In November, we successfully organized a Consular Camp, providing essential consular services and assistance to community members. This initiative exemplified FICA's mission to support practical needs while strengthening ties between the Indian community and official institutions.

The year reached a significant milestone with our Community Diwali Celebration, a landmark event that drew widespread participation. We were honored to welcome renowned Bollywood actress Mallika Sherawat and the Honorable Consul General of India as our chief guests. Their presence elevated the celebration and underscored the growing recognition of FICA's role in cultural leadership and community engagement.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the dedication of our executive committee members, volunteers, sponsors, cultural organizations, and, most importantly, our community members. Your trust, enthusiasm, and participation continue to be the true driving force behind FICA's success.

As we step into a new year, we look forward to a promising 2026 with the same vigor, enthusiasm, and collective spirit that have defined our journey so far. FICA remains committed to serving as a unifying platform—celebrating culture, recognizing excellence, empowering youth, and strengthening community connections. With your continued support, we are confident that the year ahead will bring even greater opportunities to serve and inspire. On behalf of FICA, I extend my heartfelt thanks and warm wishes for a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

Jai Hind.

Shekhar Ganore

President, FICA Group



Indian Associations/Organizations in the Greater Cleveland Area

Agarwal Samaj of North America (ASONA)
Vibhav Agarwalla
Vick.Agarwalla@Gmail.com

AIPNO Association of Indian Physicians of Northern Ohio
Prakash Chand

Association of Asian Indian Women in Ohio (AAIWO)
Ruby Behl - aaiwo@cleveland@gmail.com

BAPS
Ashish Patel - 2162801894

Bengali Cultural Society
Arunabha Kundu - 2164651638
bcscl.e.president@bcscl.org

Cleveland Moms 4 Moms
Vidhya Ramchandran
Info@clevelandmoms4moms.org

Ekal Abhiyan
Vikas Jain - Vikasjain365@yahoo.com

ICAGA (Indian Community of Akron)
Duriya Dhinojwala

Isha Foundation
Ram Appana - appana0213@gmail.com

India Fest
Bharat Kumar - 2165325532

Jain Society
Sangita Bafna - 216-906-9064

Coalition of Hindus of North America (CoHNA Cleveland)
Rakesh Ranjan
rranjan@charakresearch.com

Kasturi Kannada Sangha
Lokesh Venkatasaiiah - 25kasturi@gmail.com

Kerala Association of Ohio
Rijesh Bhaskaran - 512-954-0412
president@kaoh.org

Marwari Association of Ohio
Bhavika Aggarwal - 330-356-1692

North East Ohio Marathi Mandal
Abhijeet Kulkarni - president@neomm.org

Northeast Ohio Women in Tech
Sranvathi Vallampati
clevelandohioneowit@gmail.com

North East Ohio Telugu Association
Madhu Majji - 7696661744

Northeast Ohio Tamil Sangam
Mahalakshmi Ramaswami
216 318-7733

Sewa International
Anil Kumar Singh - Cleveland@sewausa.org

Tamil Nadu Foundation USA, North East Ohio Chapter
Venkatesh Harikrishnan
Northeastohio@tnfusa.org

The Odisha Society of the Americas, Ohio Chapter
Deepak Sahoo - sahoodk@gmail.com

Gujarati Samaj of Greater Cleveland
Shilpa Patel
president.gsgc2025@gmail.com

Swami Narayan Temple
Rakesh Patel - 4406675943
Cleveland State University Indian Student Association
Surabh - 2167133865

Case Western University
Amala Penumaka
http://community.case.edu/uisa/contact-us



FICA Deepavali 2025



FICA Deepavali 2025 was held at La Centre Westlake on November 2nd 2025. This year's event was extravagant since, for the first time in the history of FICA, we had a Bollywood celebrity guest and Consul General of New York, Honorable Ambassador Binaya Srikanata Pradhan. Afternoon, 3 pm was a meet and greet with the Honorable Ambassador. Distinguished VIP's of Cleveland City were invited to attend the meet and greet. Cleveland Community leaders, presidents of various regional organizations, senators, and state representatives were present at the meet and greet. Important business aspects and perspective of the future of Cleveland were discussed. The Morning Honorable ambassador, with a few distinguished FICA and



community leaders, visited the ICG and paid respect to Mahatma Gandhi.



On the morning of November 2nd, a consular camp was arranged by FICA to help the community with visa and passport services. Many community members participated in large numbers in the visa camp.

The evening after the meet and greet with the Honorable Ambassador CG of New York, a formal gathering to celebrate Deepavali was arranged by FICA. Around 450 people attended the event. Networking with tea and appetizers was followed by speeches from the president of FICA, Mr. Shekar Ganore, and the CG of New York. This was followed by cultural performances from different dance schools in Cleveland. Then there was a grand Rose petal shower entry for Bollywood celebrity Miss Mallika Sherawat. She danced to the tunes of the famous Bollywood song Mayya Mayya, and the crowd was cheering and dancing with her. Dinner was served, followed by the DJ. The night ended with music and dance of Mayya Mayya lingering in the minds of people gathered.



FICA Shiksha Daan Volunteer - Miss Anusha Bangalore

Anusha Bangalore is a fourth-year combined undergraduate and master's student at Case Western Reserve University. She is completing her master's in Bioethics and Medical Humanities alongside a B.S. in Neuroscience, with minors in Music and Chemistry. Anusha started Shiksha Daan virtual tutoring in Fall 2022, tutoring a middle-school student in math and other subjects. Anusha has continued weekly tutoring, working with the same student, who is now in high school, primarily tutoring in high school geometry and biology. Anusha hopes to eventually pursue a career in medicine. Her hobbies include running, playing the cello, and baking.

FICA and City Hall Deepavali 2025



FICA and City Hall, Cleveland, collaborated to celebrate Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Lights, at the Rotunda of Cleveland City Hall on October 22, 2025. Many leaders from Cleveland attended the event. Around 150 guests from different organizations participated in the event.

Chia-Min Chen, Asian Liaison for the City of Cleveland, welcomed the crowd. Bhavin Patel, EC of FICA, was the MC of the event. He invited Mr. Shekar Ganore, president of FICA, to say a few words about Diwali and how it is celebrated across different states in India. FICA Board Chair, Mr. Sudharshan Sathe, spoke about Deepavali. The Board members of FICA, along with Mr. Shekar Ganore, lit the lamp and inaugurated the ceremonies. The US National Anthem was rendered by Miss Anika Rao and Miss Medha Iyer. This was followed by the Indian

National Anthem by Mr. Lalith Subramanian and Medha Lalit. Cleveland Community Relations Board Director Angela Shute-Woodson presented a proclamation from Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb. Lalit Subramanian sang "Nirmohiya." Lalit Subramanian & Medha Lalit Iyer also sang "Mile Sur Mera Tumhara." At the end, Madhu Gargasha, Pavana Lalit, Ramya Ramadurai, and Deepa Rao performed the Swagatham Song.

President Ganore and Chair Mr. Sathe presented an award to Margaret W. Wong, who then gave her thanks and remarks. Dinner was served by the restaurant Honest. The program concluded at 8.30 PM.





Project Seva: Community Impact Report



Serving with Compassion, Consistency, and Community

Project Seva, a service arm of FICA Cleveland, has continued its long-standing mission of supporting individuals and families experiencing homelessness across Northeast Ohio. Through meals, essential supplies, and hands-on volunteering, our community has always demonstrated the power of collective service.

Project Seva remained firmly rooted in its charter:

- Serving monthly meals at local homeless shelters
- Distributing hygiene care packages and winter blankets
- Supporting men's, women's, and family shelters
- Encouraging family and youth participation in service

This consistency has allowed us to build trust with shelters and create meaningful, recurring impact.

1. Nourishing Through Meals

- WSCC Shelter: Monthly dinner service continued uninterrupted, with meals sponsored by community members and supported by Project Seva when needed.
- Lutheran Men's Shelter: Thanksgiving and fall meals served to hundreds of men, paired with hygiene kit distribution.
- Haven Home & Norma Herr Shelter: Home-style lunches and cookouts supported women and families in transitional housing.

Meals were often prepared and served by parents and children together, reinforcing values of compassion across generations.

2. Hygiene Kits & Essential Supplies

In 2025, Project Seva completed one of its largest hygiene initiatives to date:

- 800+ hygiene kits assembled (15 essential items per kit)

- Kits distributed across multiple shelters serving men, women, and families

Assembly events doubled as youth volunteering opportunities, with students earning service hours and hands-on experience

3. Winter Blanket Drive

As colder months approached, the community came together to ensure warmth and dignity:

- Hundreds of blankets distributed across shelters
- Careful attention paid to quality, warmth, size, and usability for Cleveland winters

Community members assisted with sourcing, quality checks, and logistics

4. Community & Youth Engagement

One of Project Seva's greatest strengths continues to be its people:

- Parents introducing children to service through meal prep, kit assembly, and distribution
- Youth-led initiatives supported and amplified, including:
 - Fundraisers for local nonprofits
 - Backpack drives for families and children in need
- Volunteers often described these moments as a "return to our roots", reflecting how Project Seva began years ago

None of this work would be possible without:

- Generous donors who supported meals, supplies, and logistics
- Volunteers who gave their time, skills, and energy
- Community leaders and committee members who ensured thoughtful coordination and responsible stewardship

Every donation—large or small—translated directly into food on a table, warmth in winter, and dignity for those we serve.

As we move forward, Project Seva remains committed to:

- Sustaining monthly meal programs
- Expanding youth engagement in service
- Continuing seasonal drives for hygiene kits and winter supplies
- Serving with focus, integrity, and heart

Small actions. Big impact.

Thank you for being part of the Project Seva journey.

Article by : Utkarsh Hazarnis Chair Project Seva

For donations visit -

https://www.paypal.com/donate?token=hcvhgVbseYn4hOnnglAWQkWDQZ2f-0GyIo5P9iauDVK_7E1Wnv8giixrp5v9qJx646Zb4aqmKyS1Holh

National Federation of Indian American Associations (NFIA)



Congratulations to Mr. Satish Parikh, former President of FICA, for being elected President of NFIA 2026. Congratulations to Mr. Shekhar Ganore for being elected as Vice President of the Great Lakes Region USA.

The National Federation of Indian American Associations

(NFIA), the largest non-profit umbrella organization of Indian associations, established in 1980, aims to unify the diverse Indian American community by coordinating and promoting the activities of its member associations through nonprofit community service.

NFIA: History and Key Activities

Mr. Satish Parikh explained that NFIA was established in the early 1980s and outlined its four major annual activities, including a congressional lunch and a scholarship program for Indian students. He mentioned that FICA hosted two successful conventions in the past, in 1990 and 2006, and is currently sponsoring two additional scholarships starting in 2026. Thanks were extended to Mr. Sanjay Garg from FICA Shiksha Daan for sponsoring these additional scholarships.

Scholarships and Convention Planning

Mr. Satish Parikh shared that seven Cleveland-area students received scholarships in 2023, continuing from a previous program in which 23 candidates were selected for four-year scholarships. He also discussed plans to host the NFIA convention in Cleveland in the summer of 2026.

Mr. Satish Parikh discussed the upcoming NFIA convention in Cleveland, a two-day event featuring a dinner get-together, seminars on health and finance, and a cultural program followed by a gala dinner with a keynote speaker. Vendors will have booths to showcase their products, and sponsors will be recognized during the gala. For 2026, Mr. Parikh will serve as President of the NFIA Executive Committee, while Mr. Shekhar Ganore will serve as Regional Vice President for the Midwest Region, representing Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan.

We wish both leaders the very best in their endeavors. Mr. Shekhar Ganore Appointed as VP Mid-West (Great Lakes Region), NFIA

The National Federation of Indian American Associations (NFIA) has announced the appointment of Shekhar Ganore as Vice President for the Midwest Great Lakes Region, recognizing his continued commitment to community service, cultural leadership, and civic engagement within the Indian American diaspora.

In this role, Mr. Ganore will work closely with NFIA leadership to support national initiatives, strengthen collaboration among regional organizations, and promote greater representation of Indian Americans across cultural, educational, and civic platforms. Mr. Ganore is a respected community leader known for fostering unity, preserving cultural heritage, and empowering youth through community-based programs. His appointment reflects NFIA's confidence in his leadership and vision.

The Indian American community extends its congratulations to Shekhar Ganore on this well-deserved appointment and looks forward to his continued service through NFIA.



Hindu Physicians International (HPI)



A charity run by physicians from dharmic origin to serve the entire humanity

PRESS RELEASE 1/19/2026

A delegation of the Hindu Physicians International, Inc (HPI) led by its founding president Dr. Adityanjee visited the Gathering Place, Westlake, OH on Monday, January 19th, 2026, observed as the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Day. The delegation met with the President and the CEO of the Gathering Place

Ms. Michele Seyranian and other staff members. The delegation handed over a donation check as a contribution by the HPI towards alleviating the suffering of the cancer survivors in the Northeast Ohio Region. This contribution will help with rehabilitation services for cancer survivors, especially women and children that have been impacted by a multitude of economic factors in their journey of recovery from cancer. Prior to handing over the check, a lamp lighting ceremony was held and a Sanskrit invocation for universal peace, prosperity, health and welfare of the entire humanity was chanted.

Besides its founding president, the HPI delegation consisted of other physicians including Dr. Dipali Desai, Dr. Shalini Arora Chowdhry, Dr. Saroj Brar, Mr. Rohit Jain, a pre-medical student from the Case Western Reserve University and some prominent members of Hindu community including Mr. Amandeep Brar and Dr. Tej Pareek, a cancer researcher. The delegation also toured the Westlake Campus of the Gathering Place in OH and became familiarized with the ongoing intervention programs. There were extensive bilateral deliberations on helping the region with its healthcare challenges and institutionalizing the collaboration between the two non-profit organizations in future years for the greater good of humanity.

Hindu Physicians International (HPI), Inc is a Dharmic, faith-based charitable (non-profit) 501 [c] 3 organization rooted in principles of sanctity of life, universality of human suffering and the need for collective effort to improve the lot of humanity. HPI manifests these principles through various global charitable healthcare initiatives, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and other volunteer interventions in the service of humanity.

www.hinduphysiciansinternational.com

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/109620215/admin/dashboard/>

<https://www.youtube.com/@HPIsewa>

Lighting the Spark: How Local Youth Turned Diwali into a Movement for Unity



The sky over Brunswick exploded with color during the 2025 Diwali celebration, but the real brilliance wasn't happening overhead. It was happening on the ground, fueled by the energy of the youth volunteers at the BAPS Swaminarayan Mandir.

While the fireworks and the synchronized light show were breathtaking, they were merely the backdrop for a much deeper movement. These young volunteers didn't just attend the festival; they curated it. They orchestrated everything from the logistics to the immersive cultural exhibitions, proving that they aren't just inheriting traditions—they are actively shaping them. Vrunda Desai, 17, explains why she dedicates her time to the event. "It's important to me to volunteer for the festival as it allows me to share my culture, especially with young children, in a way that is fun and relatable to them," she says.

Of course, the Annakut—that majestic "mountain of food" offered as a form of gratitude—was a feast for the eyes. Yet, the heartbeat of the festival was the volunteers' dedication to the theme of "Unity." The volunteers took a high-level concept—unity—and broke it down into something actionable: forgiveness. Walking guests through interactive exhibits, they taught that harmony isn't just a global ideal, but a personal responsibility. They highlighted

the wisdom of their Guru, Pujya Mahant Swami Maharaj: "Unity starts with me."

For 22-year-old volunteer Shruti Patel, the work itself was a lesson in harmony. "Mandir has a way of bringing people of all ages



and walks of life together," Shruti says. "Volunteering with this group and witnessing their unity... motivates me to imbibe these same values." The youth didn't just talk about unity; they put it to work for Brunswick. Transforming the spirit of service into tangible action, they rallied the wider community to collect over 780 pounds of food for the Brunswick Food Pantry.

It was a powerful demonstration that the values taught inside the Mandir—like compassion and unity—are meant to be shared with the world outside. As 22-year-old Janki Patel reflects, "Mahant Swami Maharaj always teaches us that with unity, great things can be achieved. Every decoration, every activity, and every smile we inspire is a reminder that getting a chance to serve in this way not only transforms the lives of others but also shapes who we are."

From the first spark of a firework to feeding their neighbors, these young leaders showed us that true unity extends far beyond the walls of the Mandir.

Shiva Vishnu Temple in Parma Marks Diwali with Grand Community Celebration



The Greater Cleveland Shiva Vishnu in Parma is the spiritual and cultural hub for the Hindu community in Northeast Ohio. Established in its current location in 1989, the temple is situated on a 32-acre property surrounded by

wetlands, providing a serene environment for worship and reflection. The temple features over 20 shrines, with the central ones dedicated to Lord Shiva and Lord Vishnu. You will also find prominent altars for Ganesha, Durga, Lakshmi, and others, including a dedicated shrine for Nandi, the bull facing Shiva.

The Temple Visitors' atmosphere is profoundly peaceful and welcoming. The interior is light-filled and adorned with intricate sculptures of Hindu Gods and Goddesses. Weekend visits are particularly lively, with special pujas and religious classes. The building blends classical and neoclassical Hindu architectural styles. Notable features include the 25-foot-tall shikhars and a traditional temple door installed in 2001. Beyond religious services, the temple serves a social role, offering traditional home-cooked mahaprasad on Sunday afternoons, which is sponsored and made by Temple devotees. The Temple hosts a major celebration for Diwali and Annakut, often drawing a large portion of the local Hindu community to its 32-acre campus in Parma. The festivities are a blend of deep spiritual devotion and vibrant cultural gathering, typically centered around the victory of light over darkness and gratitude for the year's blessings.

The event is structured to honor several traditional aspects of the holiday, usually spanning the weekend nearest to the actual date of Diwali. Many times, on the occasion of Diwali, the Temple recognizes the significant contributions of volunteers. It was in that spirit that the Temple management

Cntd...Pg 6



Shiva Vishnu Temple in Parma Marks Diwali with Grand Community Celebration

By Shweta Chari

...Cntd from Pg 5

recognized the contributions of Mr. Raman Patel of Sona Construction Co by offering a shawl to show gratitude for his services all through this time. Mr. Raman Patel helped build the current building of the Temple, where the Temple moved in 1997. Mr. Patel helps with any extension projects for the Temple. With very deep knowledge & rich experience in Hindu religious architecture, Mr Patel also advises other temples, including the BAPS & Swaminarayan Temples.

Annakut (Mountain of Food): The centerpiece of the celebration is the Annakut, where hundreds of vegetarian delicacies & desserts are beautifully arranged and offered to the deities as a symbol of gratitude. Following the offering, this "mountain of food" is distributed to devotees as Maha Prasad. **Lakshmi Puja:** On Diwali day, special prayers are dedicated to Goddess Lakshmi, the deity of wealth and prosperity. Devotees often participate in a community Lakshmi Puja to seek blessings for their families and businesses. **Govardhan Puja:** This ritual commemorates Lord Krishna lifting the Govardhan Hill. The temple often creates a symbolic representation of the hill, and rituals are performed to honor Krishna's protection of his devotees.

Festive Atmosphere: The temple grounds are illuminated with countless glowing diyas & lights and adorned with intricate rangoli designs. The weekend celebration often includes cultural programs, devotional bhajans, and a communal sit-down dinner. Volunteers play a massive role in preparing the hundreds of dishes for the Annakut and decorating the temple interior.

As the autumn air turns crisp, the 32-acre campus of the Greater Cleveland Shiva Vishnu Temple transforms into a radiant sea of lights. For the thousands of Hindu families across Northeast Ohio, this isn't just a holiday; it is a homecoming.

Diwali, the "Festival of Lights," celebrates the victory of knowledge over ignorance and light over darkness. At the Shiva Vishnu Temple, this message is brought to life through a display of grandeur that has become a local landmark of culture and community.

The most breathtaking moment of the celebration is the Annakoot Puja. In a tradition dating back centuries, devotees prepare a "mountain of food" as an offering of gratitude. On long, tiered tables stretching across the prayer hall, hundreds of vegetarian dishes—from colorful sweets (mithai) and savory snacks to traditional grains—are meticulously arranged. This vibrant "mountain" serves as a symbolic thank-you for the year's harvest and blessings.

The festivities usually center around a Saturday program that balances solemnity with celebration:

Lakshmi Puja: The day begins with prayers to Goddess Lakshmi, the bringer of prosperity, as families seek blessings for the year ahead.

The Glow of Diyas: As evening falls, the temple is illuminated by hundreds of diyas (clay lamps), their flickering flames reflecting against the temple's 25-foot shikhars (towers).

Community Feast: The event culminates in the distribution of the Maha Prasad—the sanctified food from the Annakoot—where the community gathers to share a meal, embodying the spirit of unity.

For many in Parma, the temple is more than a place of worship; it is a

cultural bridge. "Diwali is a time when we open our doors to share our joy with the entire neighborhood," says one Temple volunteer. Whether you are there for the spiritual reflection or simply to witness the incredible artistry of the food mountain, the grandeur of Diwali in Parma is an experience that lingers long after the last lamp is extinguished. The preparations start weeks in advance.

Volunteers spend countless hours in the temple kitchen preparing "Sattvic" food for prasadam, pure vegetarian food cooked without onion or garlic. The sound of the bhajans and the rhythmic ringing of the temple bells during the Aarti (the final prayer ceremony) creates a powerful, vibrating energy in the hall.

While Diwali is celebrated in the heart of the home, the Temple serves as the soul of the community. Here, the individual 'light' of each family joins together to create a massive glow. It's where we realize we aren't just isolated households, but a vast, interconnected family (Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam). Seeing hundreds of people gather reinforces our identity and gives us strength."

The Annakoot is the Temple's way of saying 'thank you' for the abundance in our lives. We typically prepare over 200 to 500 unique vegetarian items. It's a staggering variety—sweets, savories, fruits, and grains. But the real 'grandeur' isn't in the number of dishes; it's in the fact that every single item was prepared with devotion (Bhakti) and offered to the Divine before it is shared with the people.

The preparation is a marathon of love. Our volunteers start weeks in advance. Some are in the kitchen in the early hours, others are decorating the floor with Rangoli (sand art) for ten hours straight. In Hinduism, we call this Seva—selfless service. When you see the beauty of the temple on Diwali, you are seeing thousands of hours of quiet, volunteer service offered as a gift to God.

When the bells ring and the large lamps are waved during the final Aarti, the atmosphere becomes electric. You can feel the vibration of the chanting in your heart. It's a moment where the physical world and the spiritual world feel very close. People often leave feeling a profound sense of peace (Shanti) that stays with them for days.

A core value of the Shiva Vishnu Temple is hospitality, and the Temple is open to people of all faiths who wish to witness the beauty of Diwali.

Temple's official website is shivavishnutemple.org, and it is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that is supported by the generous donations from the devotees.



Across Continents: Musical Journey of Sugata Chatterjee

By Mahima Rao



When Sugata Chatterjee was named a professional member of the Recording Academy, the institution behind the Grammy Awards, it marked a significant milestone not just in her personal journey but in the broader representation of Hindustani classical music on the global stage. For Sugata, however, this honor was not the culmination of ambition; it was a quiet affirmation of a lifelong devotion to purity, discipline, and the emotional depth of a centuries-old tradition. She

often says she came to America not with professional degrees or career plans, but with her tanpura. And it is this unlikely trajectory from a suburban city

in West Bengal to the Grammy community that makes her story uniquely compelling.

Long before the accolades, Sugata's life was shaped by sound. Growing up in a suburb of West Bengal, she absorbed music from every corner: popular songs, devotional bhajans, Rabindra sangeet, and classical raagas played on the radio in her household. Her father, a doctor who nurtured unfulfilled dreams of learning music himself, recognized her innate talent and unique voice at a tender age of 4 years. Ignoring suggestions to wait until she was six years old, he traveled to Kolkata to purchase her first harmonium. That single act, part love, part longing, part intuition, became the seed of a lifelong musical identity. Her mother filled their home with Rabindra sangeet, early on, while teachers introduced her to devotional music, especially Mirabai bhajans. Sugata sang them so constantly that she joked she must have been Mirabai in another lifetime!

Cntd....Pg 7



Across Continents: Musical Journey of Sugata Chatterjee

By Mahima Rao

...Cntd from Pg 6

A profound shift came with her training under Pandit Satya Ranjan Chatterjee, who initiated her into pure Hindustani classical music. Under him, she earned a six-year diploma and learned entirely through memorization. There were no written notes, only discipline, imagination, and daily practice sessions. This approach shaped her fundamentally and eventually contributed to her musical distinction within the Grammy network.

Sugata's gurus gave her something rare: the courage to think musically without depending on notation. Her own path, rooted in imagination, creativity, improvisation, and rigorous internalization, reflects the true spirit of khayal and extends the boundaries of Hindustani music! But life shifted abruptly when she lost her father at age 19. Financial hardship forced her to pause her training, and for a time she feared that music, the very essence of her identity, might slip away. Marriage brought Sugata to the United States to join her husband, Dr. Arup Chatterjee. Her in-laws knew nothing about her talent until one evening when she sang bhajans at home, stunning everyone. Her husband then encouraged her to bring her tanpura from India, even arranging a special case for safe transport. This support marked the revival of her musical life abroad.

Sugata's early years in the U.S. were nomadic, Syracuse, Boston, Toledo, but music remained her anchor. After six years, she returned to India and began intensive training with Pandit Ajay Chakrabarti, traveling every summer for nearly a decade. Later, Mohan Lal Mishra of the Benaras gharana refined her understanding of voice preservation and recording, prompting her to build a home studio with guidance from her son, Anyun Chatterjee, a social scientist at Temple University. This lifelong commitment, grounded in rigor and tradition, eventually led her to global recognition, including her 2022 acknowledgment as a Grammy-affiliated professional singer.

Sugata's performances are celebrated for their emotional resonance and technical discipline. She views daily practice as non-negotiable and

believes devotion is essential to a true musical journey. Her approach to raaga balances the precision of grammar with the artistic sensitivity of lyricism. The same raga, she often notes, can convey romance or devotion depending on the composition's intent. When teaching young children, she uses printed notation only as a starting point, guiding them gradually toward independent thinking and creativity.

Though Sugata has collaborated across genres, she maintains absolute clarity about her foundation. Fusion may require adjustment, she says, but she never compromises the purity of Hindustani classical technique. Western music is not her domain, but she engages thoughtfully with diverse artists while preserving tradition.

Despite a long list of international performances, television appearances, recordings, and institutional recognition, including her Recording Academy membership, Sugata insists she has never chased awards. For her, success lies in continuity: the ability to sing, teach, learn, and embody the music she loves.

Sugata hopes to be remembered not just as a performer, but as a devoted guardian of Hindustani classical tradition. Over 25 years of teaching, she has seen how written notes often restrict students from developing a personal style. She believes deeply in in-person learning, though she supports committed students online as well. She encourages regular recording to cultivate self-awareness and insists on honoring raga time cycles during performance, a hallmark of classical authenticity.

Through migration, personal loss, motherhood, and decades of disciplined training, Sugata Chatterjee stands today as a Grammy-affiliated artist whose journey bridges the musical soul of India and the cultural landscape of America. She remains, above all, a custodian of a living tradition, carrying it forward one raga, one student, and one heartfelt performance at a time. Wishing Sugata Chatterjee the very best as she continues to shine on global stages, inspire audiences, and carry the rich legacy of Hindustani classical music forward with grace and brilliance in our own backyard here in Northeast Ohio.

From Cleveland Roots to Grammy Gold: The Rise of ThankYouDish

By Mahima Rao

Some artists enter the music world with a plan, and then there are artists like Nandish Patel, also known as ThankYouDish, whose journey feels almost destined. His story did not begin in a studio or on a stage, but in the warmth of a Cleveland home filled with laughter, family gatherings, and a soundtrack shaped by culture, community, and love. Long before the awards, the collaborations, and the move to Los Angeles, music was simply a part of who he was.

Today, Nandish is a Grammy-winning producer, celebrated for his atmospheric soundscapes and emotional storytelling. His contribution to Chris Brown's album 11:11 (Deluxe), winner of the 2025 Grammy for Best R&B Album under RCA Records, marks a defining chapter in his career. Yet, behind that achievement lies a journey grounded in humility, instinct, and a genuine connection to the people and places that shaped him.

From childhood, music surrounded him like a second language. His parents, Veena and Bharath Kumar Patel, founders of India Fest USA, filled the home with instruments, melodies, and a deep appreciation for artistic expression. Family sing-alongs were not just moments of joy; they were formative experiences that taught him the emotional power of sound. By fourth grade, he was not only playing music but actively supporting his father's production company, performing at community events, weddings, and conferences. Those early performances weren't glamorous; they were intimate, communal, and deeply human, and they planted the first seeds of what would become his musical identity.

Interestingly, Nandish never went through classical training. Instead, he learned by ear, listening, absorbing, and replicating with remarkable speed. This intuitive learning style gave his music a natural fluidity, an emotional honesty that formal technique can't teach. Over time, working alongside classically trained peers helped him refine his ideas, but his foundation has always been built on feel rather than formula.



His path to professional production wasn't immediate. During his late teens and college years, music was something he loved but didn't yet see as a career. That changed around the age of nineteen, when late-night sessions with friends sparked something deeper - a calling. Composing in his small apartment, experimenting with sounds, and discovering his sonic identity became the center of his life at OSU while pursuing his undergraduate degree in Finance. As his dedication grew, so did his family's belief in him. Their encouragement helped push him toward a life-changing decision: leaving Cleveland for Los Angeles, a leap of faith that required courage, trust, and a willingness to start over.

As ThankYouDish, Nandish developed a production style known for its emotional depth, ambient vocal textures, intricate layering, and immersive atmospheres that invite listeners into a feeling rather than just a beat. He draws from a personal library of sounds collected across time and place: voice notes from a walk, melodies hummed in the middle of a conversation, the subtle sounds that people often overlook. Inspiration, for him, is human, unpredictable, and beautifully imperfect.

His early career breakthrough came with a major-label placement for the Atlanta rap group Earthgang on Interscope Records. The process of negotiating contracts, learning the business side of the industry, was eye-opening and at times overwhelming. But it also strengthened his appreciation for mentorship and taught him the value of surrounding himself with people who believe in his artistic vision.

Then came the Grammy. The moment Chris Brown's 11:11 (Deluxe) won Best R&B Album, it was more than an achievement; it was a quiet validation of years of persistence, instinct, and emotional honesty. For Nandish, the award was not just a milestone; it was a reminder that authentic art, shaped by real feeling and genuine experience, will always find its place.

Cntd... Pg 8



From Cleveland Roots to Grammy Gold: The Rise of ThankYouDish

By Mahima Rao

...Cntd from Pg 7

Amid industry shifts, streaming trends, AI-driven production tools, and the rise of short-form content, Nandish holds tightly to what matters: the human touch. Technology can assist, he believes, but it can't replace the raw emotion that comes from lived experience. His music reflects that belief, warm, honest, and grounded in connection.

To rising producers, Nandish offers simple but powerful guidance: commit deeply. Show up every day. Be resilient. Surround yourself with people who challenge and uplift you. And most importantly, let your music be an extension of your truth.

Despite his success and life in Los Angeles, Cleveland remains his anchor; the community that shaped his earliest memories and nurtured his dreams. Its artistic spirit, cultural diversity, and supportive environment continue to influence his work. He carries those roots with him everywhere.

Ultimately, the story of Nandish is not just about the rise of a talented producer; it is about family, intuition, risk, belonging, and the courage to follow a path that feels right even when it's uncertain. And as industry continues to evolve, Nandish's journey, now marked by a Grammy, stands as a reminder that authenticity, connection, and heart will always lead the way. We wish Nandish continued success in his quest for his sonic signature and many more accolades!

Northeast Ohio Marathi Mandal 2025



The Northeast Ohio Marathi Mandal (NEOMM) proudly stepped into its Golden Jubilee year in 2025, marking 50 years of celebrating Marathi culture, traditions, and togetherness. This milestone year truly felt like the cherry on top of an already vibrant journey filled with warmth, authenticity, and lasting bonds.

The Golden Jubilee celebrations began on an auspicious note with Sankrant—the Maharashtrian tradition of coming together, sharing tilgul, and strengthening bonds with sweetness and grace. The gathering was filled with traditional food and heartfelt conversations, bringing everyone together to spread smiles and strengthen cherished connections.

As laughter echoed and traditions came alive, Sankrant 2025 set the perfect tone for a year-long celebration of NEOMM's rich legacy and the community spirit that has kept it thriving for decades.

BMM Melawa Festival

Then came the much-awaited and most celebrated BMM Melawa Festival.



performance by The Shaan, leaving the audience spellbound and making the festival an unforgettable highlight of NEOMM's Golden Jubilee year.

Ganapati Festival - CLEVELAND cha RAJA

Grand Ganapati Mahotsav, "Cleveland Cha Raja," celebrated on a big scale over 10 amazing days in collaboration with Vadtal Dham Temple. The beautifully decorated temple welcomed devotees from near and far, and everyone who visited felt the devotion and blessings in the serene, divine atmosphere.

The festival was a true celebration of faith, culture, and community spirit, with daily aartis, bhajans, and devotional activities that brought everyone together. Families, children, and elders alike joined in the festivities, sharing moments of joy, laughter, and prayer. Special cultural programs and community events added to the excitement, making it a memorable experience for everyone. The sense of unity, devotion, and celebration made the Ganapati Festival a truly heartwarming and unforgettable event.

Throughout the year, the Marathi Mandal celebrated a variety of events that brought the community together in joy and tradition. From the vibrant Gudhi Padwa festivities welcoming the New Year, to the fun-filled Kids Summer Camp that kept young ones engaged and entertained, there was something for everyone. A lively community picnic brought families together for a day of fun and games in the outdoors.



This spectacular three-day celebration created a tapestry of shared experiences, fostering connection, warmth, and lasting memories across the community.

This festival brought together neighboring Mandals, creating a vibrant platform to showcase local talent through captivating dance performances, plays, dramas, and musicals.

The festival was further enriched by mesmerizing musical performances from the illustrious stalwarts of Marathi classical and devotional music, Pt. Shaunak Abhisheki and Shri Mahesh Kale, whose soulful renditions left a lasting impression on the audience.

The celebrations culminated in a truly grand evening with an electrifying

The Mandal also brought Natak (plays) and Movies from India, giving the audience a chance to see some of the country's finest Kalakars (artists) and enjoy authentic Marathi theatre and movies.

The Mandal then wrapped up the Golden Jubilee year in style with a cheerful Holiday Party, filled with laughter, music, and togetherness. Each event reflected the Mandal's commitment to preserving Marathi culture while fostering a sense of community, making the year truly memorable for members of all ages.



A Life of Seva: Raman Ji's Quiet Leadership in Community and Faith

By Mahima Rao

For many families across Northeast Ohio, Raman Ji is not introduced by title or profession, but by presence. He is the person who answers the phone late at night, who steps in when guidance is needed, and who quietly ensures that no one feels alone during moments of uncertainty or loss. His life's work is rooted in seva, selfless service, and it is this commitment to community that defines his journey more than any single project.

Raman Ji devotes significant time to serving on the management and governing boards of several Hindu temples, where his responsibilities extend far beyond ceremonial roles. He is deeply involved in volunteer work. His work demands patience, diplomacy, and countless unpaid hours, yet he approaches them with unwavering enthusiasm. Many temple initiatives, sustained through community fundraising and volunteer labor, rely on steady leadership behind the scenes. Raman Ji has been that steady force, helping institutions remain financially responsible, well-organized, and growing.

His service reaches beyond temple administration. Perhaps most notably, Raman Ji has become a trusted figure during times of loss. When families lose loved ones, they often turn to Raman Ji for guidance. He helps coordinate final rites, communicates with funeral homes and hospitals, and ensures that families receive clear information during moments of intense emotional stress. "It's a basic human courtesy," he says simply. "In those moments, people just need someone to help them take the next step; it's our duty as a society to show our respect to the departed and stand in unity with the families".

On a personal level, Raman Ji's values were shaped by sacrifice and resilience. Trained as an engineer in India, he immigrated to the United States carrying both ambition and uncertainty. The early years required him to live apart from his wife and their three children as he worked to establish stability in a new country. Those years reinforced his belief that education, formal and experiential, is the foundation for a better life. With his wife's steadfast support, the family navigated separation and transition, emerging stronger and deeply grounded in shared values of perseverance and learning.

It was through his community involvement that Raman Ji's path gradually



led to temple construction, a responsibility he embraced with humility and faith. When the opportunity to work on his first temple project arose, he recalls feeling a deep sense of purpose. "My first thought was that God is with me," he has said. Temple construction, unlike commercial projects, requires honoring centuries-old traditions while meeting modern engineering standards and strict U.S. building codes. Raman Ji coordinated closely with architects, structural engineers, Vaastu consultants, and priests, often bridging expertise from India and the United States.

One project presented a particularly delicate challenge. Traditional practice required the murti to be placed on raw soil, but site conditions made this impossible. Rather than compromise faith or safety, Raman Ji proposed an alternative, creating a dedicated pit filled with natural soil that preserved ritual integrity. After consultation, the priest approved. It was a moment that reflected the balance he

consistently strives for: respect for tradition, thoughtful engineering, and collaborative problem-solving.

Regulatory and zoning challenges are a constant reality in temple construction across the U.S. Raman Ji worked closely with city officials, committees, and contractors to adapt traditional designs to local requirements while maintaining architectural authenticity. Each project demanded careful planning, flexibility, and constant coordination, often under tight timelines and financial constraints. His mantra is public relations. "Be clear with your ideas and explain the purpose, show respect and build relationships," he says.

Yet, Raman Ji does not single out any one temple as his most meaningful. "Every project taught me that it is not me doing the work," he reflects. "It is God guiding us." Each completed temple stands as a divine space shaped by collective effort, faith, and community commitment.

What sets Raman Ji apart is his enduring enthusiasm for life and service. His warm smile, curiosity, and tireless energy continue to guide his work, whether managing temple affairs, supporting families in crisis, or mentoring younger generations. In serving people first and building sacred spaces second, Raman Ji has created a legacy measured not in structures alone, but in lives he has touched.

An Enlightenment of Flavors

By Ameyaa Gargasha

When I was younger, my parents always said something along the lines of, "I crave some chaats right now," or "Chaats would really hit the spot right now."

Me being pretty young, didn't understand why my parents used to say that. In my eyes, chaats, or Indian street food, were just food like any other. But as I got older, I realized how wrong I was.

On a trip to Bangalore, Karnataka, where most of my family lives, I was instantly hit by the shock of the hot and tropical weather, as Northeast Ohio, where I live, gets hot in the summer, but not this hot. On the second day, my parents decided they were hungry, and so we went outside. Not to a restaurant or someone's house, but just outside. We wandered the streets of Bangalore for 5 minutes before coming across a stall labeled with all the different types of street food you could imagine. Samosas, pani puri, dahi puri, chole bhature, sandwiches, vada pav, pav bhaji, bhel puri, cut mirchi, boti masala, jalebi, and various lassis. I watched my parents' faces light up. The sparkle in their eyes was everything. Little did I know, I would be introduced to the wonderful world of food soon enough.

We ordered, and it took a while, but eventually our glorious pav bhaji, boti masala, and masala puri arrived. I watched as my parents closed their eyes in happiness as they took that amazing first bite of the pav bhaji and savored it. My mom noticed me looking and offered a bite. At first, I was reluctant, but as I took my first bite of authentic Indian street food that I could remember, I finally understood why my parents craved it. The rich creaminess of the bhaji filling mixed with the soft and fluffy bread was delicious to the palate. Obviously, I liked it- a lot. The boti masala, though,



I LOVED. The crispy and crunchy wafer filled with onions, tomatoes, and carrots, drizzled with sweet chutney and sev on top- now that was something I would crave. After we finished our food and headed back home, one of the first things I told my mom was, "You need to make me boti masala when we get back home." One of my favorite street foods had turned into a full-blown obsession. For the rest of the two and a half weeks we were in India, I begged my mom and dad to get chaats every single night. Naturally, they were not going to drop everything and take me there, but on a random Wednesday at 10 PM, I found myself in the streets of Bangalore eating food off a cart, just because we felt like it.

Continuing with my food journey, my family and I visited a temple for prayers. We stayed for about 30 minutes before it was time for us to eat. I got concerned, because we weren't leaving the premises to get food, but that was before my mother told me that they serve food at the temple. My original response was reluctant, as the picky eater in me was worried if I would like it or not. My mother reassured me and told me that it was just the food I ate almost daily at home. We climbed the steep stairs to the eating room and sat on the ground. As they brought the banana leaves out and set them in front of us, my eyes widened in alarm; I wasn't used to eating off a leaf. The servers brought more and more food out and set it on our leaves. After everything was served, a priest came and gave us teertha [holy water] flavored with saffron. Around me were my cousins, aunts, uncles, great aunts and uncles, grandparents, and extended family, all in the same space, eating at the same time. We said a prayer and dug in.

Cntd... Pg 10



An Enlightenment of Flavors

...Cntd from Pg 9

The first bite was a deliciously sweet payasam, and it was pure bliss. The moment I ate the sambar, though, my mouth burned. The food was REALLY spicy. I gulped down water and stuck to things I knew would be ok for me to handle. Next came some of my favorites: holige, jalebi, ambode, and crispy sev. My absolute favorite was mango rasayana, which is sweet mango puree with saffron, cardamom, and nuts. Even though some of the food on that banana leaf I didn't like or couldn't handle, it was really the environment and experience that I enjoyed. The confluence of flavors and celebrations around me was mesmerizing, providing me with a unique happiness that

By Ameyaa Gargsha

defined my identity and culture. That was the really peaceful part after the overeating of temple food. On my return to the temple when I bowed to the almighty gods, I was extremely grateful for the wonderful experience, my family, and the blessings that were bestowed upon me.

On that trip, I learned that sometimes the best food in life comes with the best experiences, too. I discovered that some of the best food I've ever tasted doesn't have to be plated nicely in a place full of ambience with sophisticated menus and seating, but can be served with plastic bowls and cutlery in a wayside road at midnight or off a banana leaf in a crowded temple. Trying new foods allowed me to eat some of the best food I've ever had and make memories. To this day, I wake up craving a boti masala or pani puri.

Medical Yatra

By Yuvha Karthikeyan

LIGHT the LAMP ('DIYA')!

"Clean every corner of our minds and light..inner world by lighting the diya inside for someone"-SHIVANI

SMART Glasses

AI technology has provided an unique opportunity to Medical YATRA to help & empower the Visually Impaired community. With Smart Glasses, they can read, go shopping with Rupee currency, enjoy Cricket, do cooking with confidence and a lot more. Est. 600 blind People, in more than 10 states are enjoying the benefits of SMART glasses donation.

[\\$125 Donation will LIGHT ONE Blind person LIFE for ever!](#)

rosthetic Hands & Legs

Supported by Gandevi Taluka Seva Trust & Hands for Gratitude, Medical YATRA has fitted 600 amputees with Legs & Hands prosthetics. YATRA also provides Occupational Therapy and GTST provides help in finding employment. Amputees empowered with NEW mobility are employed as: Brick Layer, Const. worker, Salesman, Janitor, IT worker etc. GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT is a KEY goal so they can enjoy a WHOLESOME life.

[\\$100 donation will LIGHT ONE amputee LIFE & TRANSFORM forever.](#)

Cervical Cancer Journey

Following the footsteps of Dr. Patricia Gordon-CNN Hero 2021, 1st two CCC clinics started in Gram Seva Trust Hospital Kharel, Guj. & Rangadore Hospital, Bengaluru, K. in 2023. CCC clinics now have multiple locations: Indore, MP; Ludhiana, P.; & Adichunchanagiri Medical College, Bangalore. Dr. Bhoomika Nagraj (Ob/Gyn) One Physician is doing PhD thesis "HOPE - hpv outreach and prevention effort" . Medical YATRA has screened more than 2,000 women so far and HPV Pos. women have been treated to remove cancerous lesions with Therma Ablation-NO anesthesia. "Saving Women Lives by Early Screening & Detection of HPV virus has been a Major thrust."

[\\$100 Donation can LIGHT up the lives of 10 Women.](#)

ONE Blind person with \$125 .-Empower ONE amputee with \$100 -SAVE TEN women life with \$100

ALL above TOGETHER for \$325.

Donate Generously to: AIPNO-Medical YATRA c/o Jaya Shah, MD,6737 Wildwood Trail, MAYFIELD VILLAGE, Oh 44143

Aditya Samprathi's Sanskriti App



Aditya Samprathi is a junior in high school who built the Sanskriti App for his microeconomics class, developing it beyond the classroom and into a social innovation project that he hopes will have a lasting impact on the community. The lack of relevant, streamlined resources for new Indian immigrants drove him to create a solution.

SanskritiApp is a free, all-in-one, comprehensive

settlement web app for Indian immigrants. The app helps these indian americans acclimate to their new environment with innovative features, including a chatbot, news hub, professional network, and settlement guide. We are looking for established Indian-Americans as well as those who are new. Please sign up at sanskritiapp.us and join us in our mission.



Photography Corner

Photograph by Balaji Murthy



Photograph by Gopal Huded





NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS (NFIA)

NFIA 2024 Scholarship Recipients



Ishita Mannar

Ishita Mannar is a sophomore mechanical engineering student from Cleveland, Ohio, currently attending Purdue University. Her academic focus includes engineering design and mechanical systems. Outside the classroom, Ishita serves as the external chair for Women in Mechanical Engineering and takes a lead in Purdue’s NASA Lunabotics competition team. She also plays violin for the Purdue University Orchestra. Ishita is the recipient of the Competent Communicator and Competent Leadership awards from Toastmasters International and is a member of Tamil Nadu Foundation’s Young Adults and Emerging Professionals Committee, where she actively works to engage the next generation in giving back to their local and global communities.



Janhavee Bhat

Janhavee Bhat is a sophomore at the Georgia Institute of Technology, where she is studying Industrial and Systems Engineering. She graduated from Solon High School in May 2024. Janhavee has gained professional experience through internships with Cleveland-based companies, including The Tranzonic Companies and MRI Software. She will be working as an Industrial Engineering Co-op with Collins Aerospace during the upcoming summer and fall terms in Melbourne, Florida. Outside of her academic and professional commitments, Janhavee enjoys spending time with friends and family, reading, traveling, and exploring new restaurants. She has also earned placement on the Dean’s List for all semesters of her studies at Georgia Tech.

Rohit Jain is currently studying biology at Case Western Reserve University as part of the BS/ MD combined program with the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. In addition to his academic pursuits, he is a member of the CWRU Varsity Men’s Tennis Team and actively volunteers with Chinmaya Mission and Ekal Vidyalaya. Rohit Jain is also a recipient of the NFIA Scholarship. Before college, Rohit attended Westlake High School, where he was named a National Merit Finalist and graduated as valedictorian of his class. During his senior year, he also earned third place in the Ohio State Doubles Tennis Tournament.



Rohit Jain

Save Soil - Save for Future Generations

By Anika Rao

Joe usually visits his grandma on weekends. Today Joe went to his grandma’s. “Bye mom!” Joe said. His dad dropped him off. “See you on Monday dad!” Joe said. Joe’s grandma’s house was in the woods amongst the giant trees. Joe thought the flowers all around her house looked pretty; she also had many trees. “Hey grandma I am so excited to see you!” Joe said. “Well, it’s lovely to see you, Dear,” Grandma said. “You want to take a walk through the woods?” Grandma asked. “Sure!” Joe said excitedly. They took a walk through the forest together, and the next day they played board games. Joe’s dad came to pick Joe up. Joe said bye to grandma, left, and told dad all the fun he had. Joe continued the same thing, but one day he realized there were no more pretty trees. Joe asked Grandma, “Why are there no trees anymore?” “They cut all the trees for some construction. They are building a medical office there. Poor trees are all gone. We no longer get fresh air. Humans cause erosion, compaction, nutrient imbalance, pollution, acidification,



waterlogging, loss of soil biodiversity, and increasing salinity, which have been affecting soil across the globe, reducing its ability to support plant life and so grow crops,” Grandma explained. Grandma also said soil has rich microbes that protect plants, and plants absorb toxic gases from the air and give fresh oxygen. All these are lost by destroying the soil. “Oh no, that’s bad” Joe said. “Oh yes, it is bad!” Grandma said, “Guess what I have been doing? Composting.” “What does composting mean?” Joe says. “You put vegetable skin and many more things like cardboard, and that turns into soil after a few months”. “Oh, that’s cool, can I see it?” Joe asked. “Of course you can, Grandma says”. “Oh, that looks disgusting!” Joe says. “It is supposed to look like that,” Grandma says. “Oh ok, I will ask my dad to start composting too!” Joe says. “It also makes you throw away less trash grandma says. “Dad’s coming to pick me up, bye grandma.” “Bye, Joe!” Grandma says

What I Shared With a Group of High School Seniors - The 5E Journey to Choosing a Major

By Sachin Deshpande

I recently spoke with a group of high school seniors — bright, talented, full of ambition, but also understandably filled with questions about the future. One of them asked, “How do I know which major to choose?” And another said, “What if I choose wrong?” Their questions made me pause, think, and reflect. Instead of giving them advice from a textbook, I shared a simple philosophy built from years of experience, observation, and growth — a mindset I believe can guide any young adult stepping into college life. I told them that choosing a major is not just an academic decision — it’s a self-discovery journey. And like all meaningful journeys, it unfolds through



what I call the 5 Es:
1. Explore
At 17 or 18, nobody is expected to have life figured out. This is the time to explore — different subjects, industries, and interests. I told them: Take classes outside your comfort zone. Attend seminars. Talk to people who think

differently from you.
Exploration expands possibilities.
2. Experiment
Curiosity means nothing unless it’s tested.

Cntd... Pg 12



What I Shared With a Group of High School Seniors - The 5E Journey to Choosing a Major

By Sachin Deshpande

...Cntd from Pg 11

Join a club, take a project, intern somewhere — even if it's just for a few weeks.

I shared how experimenting removes assumptions. Sometimes we think we'll love something until we try it — and sometimes we fall in love with something we never expected.

3. Experience

Real clarity comes only through exposure.

One student mentioned wanting to study business, so I asked, "Have you ever worked on a business idea, managed money, or volunteered at a startup?"

Experience is education beyond the classroom. It's where theory becomes reality.

4. Evaluate

After trying, step back and reflect.

I encouraged them to ask themselves:

Did this excite me?

Did I enjoy the process, not just the outcome?

Would I do it again willingly?

Evaluation transforms activity into direction.

5. Evolve

This one made them smile — and sigh with relief.

I reminded them that choosing a major is not a lifetime commitment.

They will grow; interests will shift; the world will change — and they are allowed to evolve.

The purpose of college isn't to lock you into one path.

It's to help you grow into someone capable of creating your own path.

As I left that conversation, I felt grateful — not just for the questions they asked, but for the sincerity with which they're stepping into adulthood.

If every student embraces the mindset to Explore Experiment Experience Evaluate Evolve, they won't just choose the right major — they will build a life of purpose, resilience, and growth.

Because the degree is important — but the person you become while earning it matters far more.

Makara Sankranti- A Tapestry of Community Celebrations and Shared Flavors Across India

By Mahima Rao

As the sun begins its northward journey into Makara (Capricorn), India comes together to celebrate Makara Sankranti, one of the country's most ancient and widely observed harvest festivals. Rooted in the solar calendar, the festival is marked by gratitude for nature's abundance and



the strengthening of community bonds. While rituals and names vary across regions, food remains the unifying thread prepared collectively, shared generously, and deeply symbolic of prosperity and togetherness.

In Karnataka, Sankranti or Suggi's celebrations are marked by the sharing of ellu-bella, a mixture of sesame seeds, jaggery, coconut pieces, peanuts, and paired

with sugar candy. This simple yet meaningful offering is exchanged within communities, symbolizing harmony, warmth, and sweetness in relationships. Each home is decorated with garlands, elaborate rangolis, and sugar cane. The specialty of Sankranti is seeking blessings from the elders after exchanging a mixture of Ellu-Bella. "Ella-Bella tindu olle maatadi," meaning say kind words after eating Sesame seeds and Jaggery. Women and children adorned with beautiful sarees and dresses visit relatives and neighbors with a mixture of Ellu-Bella (Sesame seed mixture) in decorated containers along with sugar cane, banana, sugar candy, and fruits. It's not just a ritual but an emotion to many people. Preparation of various varieties of Pongal (a mixture of rice and moong dal made both as sweet and savory) rice-based dishes and lentil sweets, emphasizing the harvest's bounty.

In Tamil Nadu, the four-day celebration of Pongal revolves around food and community. The festival takes its name from the dish pongal, made from freshly harvested rice, milk, and jaggery. Families and neighbors gather in open courtyards or temple grounds decorated with elaborate rangolis and decorations as the pot boils over, symbolizing abundance. Sweet sakkarai pongal and savory ven pongal are shared widely, along with sugarcane, coconut, and seasonal vegetables. Community kitchens and temple feasts reinforce the collective spirit of the harvest.

In Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, Sankranti is incomplete without traditional dishes such as ariselu (rice flour and jaggery fritters), sakinalu (crispy rice snacks), and bobbatlu (sweet stuffed flatbreads). These foods are often prepared in large quantities and exchanged among neighbors, relatives, and friends. Villages host communal meals alongside cultural programs, turning food into a medium of social connection. In many households displays of dolls and an invitation to relatives and neighbors to see their display and exchange sweets and meals.

In Maharashtra, food plays a strong social role during Makar Sankranti. Tilgul laddoos made from sesame seeds and jaggery are shared with the greeting "til-gul ghya, god god bola," encouraging goodwill and kindness. Housing societies and temples often organize collective sweet-making sessions, while dishes like puran poli and gul poli are served during community gatherings.

Gujarat's Uttarayan is both a visual and culinary celebration. As neighborhoods come together on terraces to fly kites, kitchens overflow with seasonal delicacies such as undhiyu, a mixed vegetable dish made with winter produce paired with jalebi. These foods are prepared for sharing, and entire communities often eat together, turning rooftops into informal dining spaces.

In Punjab and Haryana, the communal warmth of Lohri is reflected in its food traditions. Around shared bonfires, families and neighbors distribute rewri, gajak, peanuts, popcorn, and sesame sweets. These simple harvest foods, offered to the fire and then shared, reinforce collective gratitude and joy. Lohri is a special festival for newborns as elders offer special chanting around the bonfires, holding the newborn.

In Assam, Magh Bihu centers on community feasts featuring pitha (rice cakes), laru (laddoos), and freshly harvested rice

preparations. Villagers cook together in temporary huts and share meals after traditional games and celebrations. Similar food-focused community gatherings are seen in Odisha, West Bengal, and Bihar, where khichdi, rice puddings, and sesame-based sweets are distributed during fairs and temple events.

Across India, Makara Sankranti is a celebration of harvest, harmony, and hope. Through shared meals and traditional foods prepared with care, communities come together to honor the earth's generosity and each other. In every bite of jaggery, sesame, and freshly harvested grain lies a reminder that Sankranti is not just about seasonal change, but about sustaining the bonds that nourish society itself.





PRESS RELEASE



Hindu Community in Cleveland Donates Over 1,647 Pounds of Food to Greater Cleveland Food Bank During Annual Sewa Diwali Drive
 Solon, OH — November 23, 2025 — The Hindu community of Cleveland, in partnership with Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (HSS), successfully collected 1,647 pounds of food as part of the annual Sewa Diwali Food Donation Drive. This generous contribution will help provide more than 1,200 meals to families in need through the

Greater Cleveland Food Bank.

Sewa Diwali began in 2018 when a small group of Indian American and Dharmic community organizations—including Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, Jain, and cultural groups—decided to celebrate Diwali by bringing light to those living in hunger. Inspired by the core principle of Sewa Dharma—service to humanity as service to divinity, they launched a nationwide food drive campaign.

What started with just 18,000 pounds of food collected in its first year has grown into a national movement spanning 38 states, 200 cities, and 247 organizations. Last year alone, Sewa Diwali collected over 720,000 pounds of food, providing nearly 600,000 meals to families across the country.

This year, the Cleveland-area drive culminated in a donation event at the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, where volunteers delivered the collected

food and toured the facility to learn about its extensive efforts to fight hunger. The initiative received strong support from Mayor Eddy Kraus of Solon, who joined volunteers on a cold Saturday morning to encourage their efforts.

“This initiative reflects the true spirit of Diwali—bringing light and hope to those in need,” said Mayor Kraus. “I am proud of the Hindu community for its commitment to service and for strengthening the bonds that unites us.” Representatives from the Greater Cleveland Food Bank expressed their gratitude for the community’s support, emphasizing the critical role of collaborative efforts in addressing food insecurity.

About Sewa Diwali:

Sewa Diwali is a nationwide initiative that encourages communities to come together during the festive season to serve those in need. Through food drives and charitable activities, the program fosters compassion, unity, and social responsibility.

For more information or to get involved, please visit www.sewadiwali.org.

By Samriddhi Jain



Entrepreneur Tej Kanwal Singh passes away

By Cheryl D’Mello



On November 2, 2025, Tej Kanwal Singh passed away at the age of 74. Her courage and her compassion made her a truly memorable person. She completed her B.A. and M.A. degrees in India, where she participated in plays, drama, and dances. Tej then got admission to Syracuse University in New York for a master’s degree in public broadcasting. She came here to study all alone until her family joined her. Then they moved to Cleveland to be near their grandparents. She became a television producer

at the local TV station WVIZ in her 20s, and in a very male-dominated industry, she actually won an Emmy award for one of her productions. She taught English at Cuyahoga Community College and attended the Cleveland Bridgebuilder’s Leadership Program. An entrepreneur, she ran three Subway restaurants, and she was always donating food to charity events, volunteering her time to support refugees, battered women’s organizations, and the Asian American Indian Women’s Organization in Cleveland (AAIWO), where she served as President for two years.

She is survived by her husband, Parminder, children Vikram and Maneka, grandchildren Rayna and Kavish, and her mother, Parkash.

Shahidi Diwas SEWA Activity

On Saturday, November 29, Sindhu Shakha swayamsevaks organized a SEWA activity at Dashmesh Darbar Gurudwara in Solon to mark Shahidi Diwas. Approximately 17 volunteers, including Bala and Kishors, assisted in preparing langar in the Gurudwara kitchen. Later, they participated in the evening prayer ceremony.



Chhath Puja 2025 Celebration in the Northeast Ohio Region

By Dr. Somnath Roy



Chhath Puja is a popular festival celebrated in several states of India on the sixth day of the Shukla Paksha of the Kartika month (six days after Diwali). In the state of Bihar, Chhath is the biggest festival, and on this occasion, Biharis living in various parts of the country return to their villages and towns in large numbers. Chhath Puja is primarily a festival to worship the Sun God (Surya Dev), and at the same time, the Sun God’s sister, Goddess Chhathi (Chhathi Maiya), also known as Mata Katyayani, is worshipped.

Chhath Puja is not just a festival, but a symbol of India’s ancient cultural heritage. This festival is no longer confined to Bihar but all over India, as well as being celebrated worldwide. Bihari women living abroad gather together to celebrate Chhath Puja with great pomp. Special importance is given to women in every ritual of the Puja, and in this

way, Chhath Puja also plays a role in honouring women in society.

There is a mythological story behind the immense reverence and devotion with which Chhath Puja is celebrated. According to the myth, there was a king named Priyavrat, the son of Prajapati Manu, who ruled over the entire Indian subcontinent. The king was deeply saddened as he had no children. His queen, Malini, repeatedly gave birth to dead children. One day, when Queen Malini once again gave birth to a stillborn child, King Priyavrat was so grief-stricken that he decided to end his life. With his dead son in his arms, King Priyavrat proceeded to the cremation ground, ready to enter the funeral pyre with his son.



Cntd...Pg 14



Chhath Puja 2025 Celebration in the Northeast Ohio Region

By Dr. Somnath Rai

...Cntd From Pg 13



At that moment, a radiant goddess appeared before him and said, "I am Goddess Shashti, and I protect all children in the world. Anyone who fasts and worships me properly will be blessed with a child." Following her instructions, King Priyavrat worshipped Goddess Shashti with devotion and fasted, pleasing the goddess. As a result, Goddess Shashti blessed him with a child, and his dead son came back to life. The day on which King Priyavrat worshipped Goddess Shashti was the sixth day of the Shukla Paksha of Kartika month, and since then, this worship has been practised on this day.

There are four important days in Chhath Puja. The first day is celebrated as "Nahay Khay." On this day, the devotees (Vratists) begin by cleaning their homes, and then take a holy bath in a river or pond to start the fast. They eat a simple, satwick meal consisting of chana dal (lentils) and bottle gourd (lauki) curry with roti. After the Vratists eat, the rest of the family members & friends take their meal.

The second day is called "Kharna." On this day, the Vratists fast without water for the entire day. In the evening, they prepare a sweet dish called "Rasiya" (a sweet porridge with jaggery), which is offered as prasada. The Vratists first consume it and then distribute it among family members and friends. After consuming the prasada, the Vratists begin their 36-hour dry fast. During this time, a special sweet called "Thekua," made with wheat flour, syrup, and ghee, is prepared.

The third day is known as "Sandhya Arghya," which is the main day of Chhath Puja, the sixth day of the bright half of Kartika. On this day, the Vratists maintain a strict fast without water, and in the evening, they gather with family and friends at the riverbank or near a pond to offer Arghya (an offering) to the setting Sun. Holding fruits, vegetables, and Thekua along with a lit lamp in a Kolasup (a traditional container), the Vratists offer Arghya to the Sun God after circling five times, seeking blessings for their family's prosperity and the long life of their children. After offering the Arghya, everyone returns home.

The fourth day is called "Usha Arghya." On this day, the Vratists, along with their families, arrive at the riverbank or pond one hour before sunrise. Holding the Kolasup in water in hand, they stand in the water, and as soon as they see the Sun rise, they circle five times and offer Usha Arghya to the Sun God. In places where rivers or ponds are not available, people fill a tank or platform with water and stand in it to offer the Arghya.

This year, in the Northeast Ohio region, Chhath Puja was celebrated with great enthusiasm and proper rituals in the cities of Solon, Avon, Twinsburg & Brecksville. Due to the cold weather, warm water was filled in the platforms, and the Vratists stood in it, offering Arghya to the Sun God after circling five times. After offering the Usha Arghya, the Vratists broke their 36-hour fast by consuming prasada and raw milk sherbet. In this way, the Chhath puja concludes. All friends present at the celebration are given fruits and Thekua as prasada before bidding farewell.



Natyanjali School of Odissi - Guru Smt.Sarita Behera

Odissi Dance Workshop Bhava Arpana 1.0, an offering of emotions, was held on January 3rd at Strongsville Library. Odissi guru Sarita Behera conducted the workshop, where she demonstrated Samabhanga, Abhanga, Tribhang, and Chauka. She also briefed about the history of Odissi dance, its pioneers, and the details of the dance form.

Odissi is one of the eight classical dance forms of India. It originated from Odisha, a state located in the eastern part of India. Odissi is also believed to be one of the oldest classical dance forms of India, and this fact is supported by archaeological evidence, such as sculptures in Khandagiri and Udayagiri caves (located in Bhubaneswar). Odissi has been depicted as 'Odra Magadhi' in Bharat Muni's Natyashastra and as 'Odra Nritya' in Abhinaya Chandrika. She demonstrated the Batu (or Battu) dance in Odissi is a challenging, pure dance (nritta) performed as an offering to Lord Batuka Bhairava (Shiva), characterized by sculptural poses mimicking instruments like the veena, flute, manjira and mardala, with no song, only rhythmic syllables and elaborate footwork, showcasing Odissi's technical grace and connection to temple carvings. As per the fourth narrative of this dance item poet sings in glory of Shri Raam avatar of Lord Vishnu. Glories to the Lord who married King Janak's daughter devi Sita. Glories to the Lord who defeated and killed Daemon Dusana and the ten-headed Daemon Ravana and established the victory of Dharma. In this poetry, Jayadeva's devotion to Lord Vishnu can be visualised.

Deepa Rao: Tell me about yourself and your dance journey.

I am Sarita Behera, an Odissi dancer and teacher with over 20 years of dedicated training in this classical art form. My journey began with a deep love for rhythm, movement, and storytelling, and gradually Odissi became an inseparable part of my life. It all started when I was around six years old.



As my father worked for the Reserve Bank of India, we lived in the RBI staff quarters in Bhubaneswar. In the evenings, I used to watch an Odissi dance program that was telecast on Doordarshan, which was the only channel we received on our television at that time. I found the dance was fascinating and often tried to imitate the movements. One day, while attempting a spin performed by the dancer, I lost my balance and fell, injuring my forehead. My mother, who was watching, immediately rushed me to the nearest clinic. I received a few stitches and recovered in a couple of weeks. That incident made my parents realize my deep interest in Odissi dance.

Soon after, they enrolled me in Odissi training under the guidance of my first guru, Late Shri Sahadev Padhi. Later, I trained under several gurus, including Shri Manoj Kumar Behera, with whom I trained for four years. I gave my first stage performance at a Shiva temple in Balasore, Odisha. I then received training at the Odisha Dance Academy for the next three years and continued learning and performing Odissi across Odisha. Alongside dance, I was also very committed to my studies. I took a break from dance in the 10th grade to focus on academics. I continued my studies and earned a Master's degree in Computer Applications from Utkal University and secured my first job as a software engineer in Bangalore. I worked for several years in the IT industry and performed well professionally. However, I always felt that something was missing in my life, though I could not clearly identify what it was.

After marrying Pratap, who also worked in IT, we were blessed with our first child, Priyanshi. When Priyanshi was about a year old, we attended an event where I saw a young girl performing Odissi. That moment was transformative—it made me realize that I needed to return to dance and that Odissi was what had been missing from my life. I resumed dance training under Guru Sandhyadipa Kar. However, after about one

Cntd... Pg 15

Sarita Behera Interview

...Cntd From Pg 14

and a half In 2014, my husband received a job relocation, and we moved to India. There, I connected with the accomplished Odissi guru Smt. Kumkum Mohanty, who introduced me to my guru, Smt. Muktilata Pal, a distinguished disciple of Guru Shri Kelucharan Mohapatra. I received extensive training under Guru Smt. Muktilata Pal, to whom I am deeply grateful for guiding me with dedication and teaching me every aspect of Odissi dance.

I completed my Visharad in Odissi dance from Prachin Kala Kendra, Chandigarh, and resumed performing at various cultural events in Pune, other parts of India, and Canada. Eventually, I also began teaching this beautiful art form to young children. Teaching has since become an equally important part of my journey. I currently run my own institution, Natyanjali School of Odissi, where I train students of different age groups. As a guru, I focus on nurturing disciplined technique, expressive storytelling, and cultural understanding, while making the learning process accessible to a global audience.

Over the years, Odissi has shaped my discipline, my sensitivity as an artist, and my understanding of Indian culture and philosophy. It grounds me, challenges me, and continuously inspires me to grow. Whether I am performing on stage or teaching my students, dancing Odissi gives me a sense of purpose—to preserve this beautiful tradition and share its depth and relevance with the world. I have been fortunate to receive the support of my parents, my family here in Cleveland, and my extended family in India. They have always encouraged and supported me throughout my dance journey.

Deepa Rao: How do you plan on continuing your legacy in the Cleveland area?

My plan to continue my legacy in the Cleveland area is rooted in education, community engagement, and cultural preservation. Through my institution, Natyanjali School of Odissi, I aim to create a strong and sustainable platform where Odissi is not only taught as a classical dance form, but also experienced as a living tradition.

Beyond teaching, I hope to collaborate with local cultural organizations, schools, temples, and arts councils in the Cleveland area to present lecture-demonstrations, workshops, and curated performances. These initiatives help introduce Odissi to new audiences and create meaningful cultural dialogue.

I have a demonstration/workshop series called 'Bhava Arpana' already in progress in Cleveland and its surrounding areas, and I see many young kids and adults showing their interest and joining the workshop. Most importantly, my legacy lies in nurturing the next generation of dancers—training students who not only perform with excellence, but who carry forward the values, aesthetics, and the spirit of Odissi with integrity. By building a strong community around this art form in Cleveland, I hope to ensure that Odissi continues to thrive, inspire, and remain relevant for years to come.



Moringa Leaf & Cilantro Rice

By Mrs. Sushma Lohit



- ½ tsp mustard seeds
- Salt, to taste

To Grind

- ½ cup cilantro
- 1 tsp jeera
- ½ tsp mustard seeds
- 1–2 green chilies
- 2–3 tbsp water (just enough to blend)

Grind to a coarse paste.

Method

Heat oil in a pan over medium heat. Add garlic and sauté until lightly golden. Add cashews and peanuts; fry until golden and fragrant. Add curry leaves, chopped drumstick leaves, and coconut. Sauté for 1–2 minutes until the greens wilt. Add salt and the ground cilantro paste. Cook for 2–3 minutes until the raw smell disappears. Add cooked rice and gently mix until well combined. Switch off the heat and garnish with fresh cilantro. Serve warm, ideally with curd, or enjoy it just as is.

A simple, instinct-based recipe that turned out surprisingly delicious.

Ingredients (serves 2–3)

- 2 cups cooked rice (cooled, fluffy)
- 2 tbsp oil
- 3–4 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 1 sprig of curry leaves
- 2 tbsp cashews
- 2 tbsp peanuts
- 1 packed cup drumstick (moringa) leaves, finely chopped
- ½ cup fresh cilantro, chopped (plus more for garnish)
- 1–2 green chilies, adjust to taste
- 1/2 cup fresh coconut, grated
- 1 tsp jeera (cumin seeds)



Mosaic Healthcare Advisors

Independent Medicare Advisor

OUR SERVICES

- EDUCATE**
Provide individual or group consultations on Medicare, the enrollment process, Medicare Advantage Plans (PART C), Part D, and Medicare Supplements.
- GUIDE**
Suggest insurance plan options to clients based on a thorough assessment that meets both their healthcare and financial goals.
- SUPPORT**
Continue being an ongoing resource for information regarding Medicare changes, doing Annual Reviews of Insurance plans, or help answer client questions throughout the year.

ABOUT ME

Hello, my name is Sejal Patel. As a Medicare Health Advisor, my goal is to advocate for seniors in their healthcare journey. This role has allowed me to rediscover my passion for helping others and making a difference in the lives of my clients.

CONTACT ME

 303-517-0074

 sejal@mosaicchca.com

 www.mosaichealthcareadvisors.com

FLUENT IN GUJARATI AND HINDI



SCAN THE QR CODE TO REQUEST AN APPOINTMENT

JOKE CORNER

Q: WHAT KIND TREE FITS IN YOUR HAND?
A: A PALM TREE



THANK YOU TO OUR GOLD SPONSORS



THANK YOU TO OUR GOLD SPONSORS



Mr. Sudarshan & Mrs. Swati Sathe

THANK YOU TO OUR GOLD SPONSORS



THANK YOU TO OUR GOLD SPONSORS



Kamla Bafna Foundation



THANK YOU TO OUR GOLD SPONSORS

THANK YOU TO OUR SILVER SPONSORS



THANK YOU TO OUR SILVER SPONSORS

THANK YOU TO OUR SILVER SPONSORS

THANK YOU TO OUR SILVER SPONSORS



OTHER SPONSORS



THANK YOU TO OUR TABLE SPONSORS



THANK YOU TO OUR TABLE SPONSORS

