

*India Cultural Society of Rockland*

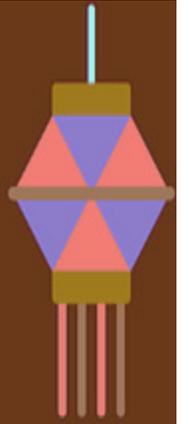
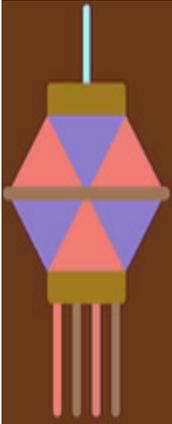
Wishes You

*Happy*

*Diwali*



2021/2078



*Wishing you a very*

*Happy Diwali*



*Drs. Rakesh & Kamini Shreedhar  
Anusha, Shivani & Brijesh*



## *President's Message*

On behalf of the very hard-working committee of ICSR-2021 and with utmost joy and pride in my heart, I wish you all Happy Diwali and a Prosperous New Year. It's been a great honor to serve as president of this esteemed organization of which, my family and I have been beneficiaries for over fifteen years. One can only imagine how many more families must have benefited from their association with ICSR during the last 50 years. I would like to express my gratitude and thank all the past presidents and their committees for continuing to take this organization to greater heights year after year.

As I had stated in my first address to the community at the beginning of this year, we did not allow the pandemic to dampen our spirit in 2021. Without wasting any time, our team started the year early in February with Coat Drive, followed by Food Drive, a few virtual concerts, virtual Antakshari, and multiple virtual round-table discussions on health in conjunction with AAPI of Rockland until May.

As things started to open up in June, we arranged our first in-person event of the year, the Annual Masala Cruise, followed by Picnic at Congers Lake in July. In August, we celebrated India Day Parade & Festival and we were honored to have Dr. Rakesh Shreedhar as our Grand Marshal. We were very fortunate to host our first ever outdoor Navratri event at the Rockland Lake State Park Gazebo which was a huge success. While we are looking forward to seeing you at Diwali celebrations in November, we also plan to host our annual Youth Meet, a very informative interactive program for our youth considering college, internships and career choices which is scheduled for Friday, November 26th.

Our sponsors have been the financial backbone of this organization and we are truly grateful for all the help we receive from them which allows us to run our programs. It is a matter of pride that we also have a wonderful youth wing that continues to help ICSR during all our events. We are also very proud of our resilient community that continues to support us year over year. We are thankful for the support this organization receives from our elected officials as well.

I can't thank my committee members enough for their hard work, commitment, support and sacrifices they have made to make sure that we continue to bring quality and valuable programs to our community. I would like to congratulate and welcome the incoming president Ms. Heena Mehta and wish her and the entire team of ICSR-2022 the best in everything.

Finally, I would like to thank my wife Ruby and daughter Ryka for their support, help, encouragement and understanding throughout the year which allowed me to devote my time to ICSR and give back to my community.

With best wishes and warm regards,

*Rajiv Rohilla*



# Sponsors

ICSR is a non-profit, cultural organization run by hundreds of volunteers since its inception in 1971-72. We are truly grateful to all the volunteers for their countless hours, and our community for your its continued support. However, none of this would have been possible without the support of our sponsors. ICSR would like to thank all its advertisers, grand/annual sponsors, and all other general sponsors for their financial support. The following are names of ICSR's Grand & Annual Sponsors for 2021 and we hope that we would continue to receive your support in 2022 as well. We expect that even more will join and support our community services endeavor in future.

- Deonarine Persaud & family (ICDI CORP)
- Manish Krishnan & family
- Drs. Rakesh & Kamini Shreedhar
- Eastchester Service Center Inc. (Satish Shreedhar & Family)
- Anil Mandapaka & Dr. Sri Bonam
- Dunkin Donuts (Sameer Patel & family)
- Andy's Quick Stop Convenience Store (Alpesh & Monica Patel)
- Tappan Zee Hotel LLC (Shashi Patel and Mitul Patel)
- KG Construction Company (Sanjeev & Kashmira Patel)
- Nehal Contracting Inc (Vipul & Seema Patel)
- Mahesh & Bhavna Patel
- People's United Bank

**ICSR IS THANKFUL TO ROCKLAND COUNTY & ROCKLAND TOURISM DEPT FOR THE ANNUAL GRANT AND TOURISM GRANT**



## *Secretary's Message*



Dear ICSR Families,

Namaste & Season's greetings. I wish you a very happy Diwali.

I am honored to have had the opportunity to serve as the 2021 ICSR Secretary.

Under the leadership of our dynamic President Rajiv Rohilla, ICSR 2021 team overcame the logistical challenges presented by COVID-19. During the first half of the year, our hardworking and passionate committee organized activities and programs for the community on virtual platforms such as YouTube, Facebook, and Zoom. We kickstarted the year with virtual events including the annual Mother's Day Concert as well as a charitable Coat & Food drive. Additionally, we held virtual Roundtable Discussions in collaboration with AAPI physicians to provide members the opportunity to ask questions and learn about topics pertaining to COVID-19 and other health-related concerns. Furthermore, for the first time in the history of ICSR, we hosted a virtual Antakshari contest that was well enjoyed by the community at large. Several of our Youth Wing volunteers were also able to successfully organize multiple virtual fun-filled dance performances for children (2-18 years of age).

After nearly a year and a half of social distancing, I along with the rest of the ICSR committee was pleased to meet you all at our in-person events. Our diligent, resilient, and selfless 2021 committee members were able to organize in-person events beginning with the Father's Day Cruise. Soon enough, the annual Summer Picnic at Congers Lake, followed by the India Day Parade at the Rockland County Courthouse, and the first-ever outdoor Navaratri Night at Rockland State Park took place.

Our organization has been serving Indian Americans in the Tri-State area for 49 years with a mission to bring cultural events that showcase Indian heritage. We are now thrilled to soon celebrate the 50th Birthday of ICSR in 2022.

I extend my sincere gratitude to all the ICSR families for their active participation, support, and enthusiasm. I am also thankful for all the sponsors for their financial support that allows us to continue bringing you all our events at a nominal price or free of cost.

It has been a memorable year serving our community with the extraordinary 2021 ICSR team led by President Rajiv Rohilla.

I must thank my wife Shweta and son Swaneet (a youth wing volunteer) for their continued support. My family and I are proud of our association with ICSR families.

With best wishes,

*Abhineet Jha*





## *Spotlight - New Director*

Namaste ISCR family,

Wishing everyone a very happy Diwali. This is my first year as a director for ICSR but a long-term member of this outstanding organization. Being part of the committee has made me get first-hand experience of all the hard work and dedication that all the committee members do to give back to the community. The enthusiasm of every member is outstanding, and which excites me to do more. Even during the pandemic, everyone went out of their way to keep it alive in the organization and made sure people were entertained.

The teamwork and the positive attitude of everyone is for sure contagious. Being involved in organizing different events has made me realize that when everyone in the group has a positive attitude, we can make the events happen grander and entertaining like our very recent one Navratri.

For sure we have a dream team that works tenaciously to make every event a memorable one to everyone in the community. I am truly blessed to be part of this organization and looking forward to being involved in the upcoming events.

Wishing everyone a prosperous and safe Happy New Year!

*Chaitra Nama*



**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

11 New Hempstead Road  
New City, New York 10956  
Phone: (845) 638-5122 Fax: (845) 638-5856  
Email: CountyExec@co.rockland.ny.us

**Edwin J. Day**  
*Rockland County Executive*

November 2021

Dear Friends of India Cultural Society of Rockland:

I am delighted to extend my deepest thanks to everyone at the India Cultural Society of Rockland (ICSR) for your hard work all year long. Our community is a more culturally rich place thanks to your efforts.

I cannot stress how important it is that we keep our traditions alive in our community. Earlier in the year, I have seen from your Facebook page that you again provided viewers with virtual concerts and events to keep members of our community involved in all that you do. And a big thank you for holding a donation drive to help the victims of the earthquake in Haiti. As in person events resumed, I'm thrilled that you were able to hold the Annual India Day Parade and a successful Navratri Night celebration for all to enjoy.

We are fortunate that the Indian American community is a part of our diverse county and that you are so active here in Rockland. Thank you for everything you do for Rockland County and we look forward to a successful year ahead!

Sincerely,



Edwin J. Day  
Rockland County Executive



# TOWN OF CLARKSTOWN

GEORGE HOEHMANN  
SUPERVISOR

November 2021

Indian Cultural Society of Rockland  
c/o Ms. Nikita Krishnan  
8 Senator Levy Drive  
Montebello, New York 10901

My Dear Friends at ICSR,

Today as we continue to gather remotely, let the light of Diwali shine within our hearts, within our families and in our lives.

As you well know, I have the highest regard for all that you do throughout the year to promote the heritage and culture of the community. I am so very proud of the strong bond and partnership between ICSR and the Town of Clarkstown. It brings great comfort to have your friendship, and know of your deep commitment to our community.

Thank you for all that you do to continue to make our world a brighter and happier place, your light shines forth!

With warm personal regards,

George Hoehmann,  
Supervisor



THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

CHAIRMAN  
Committee on  
Governmental Operations

COMMITTEES  
Rules  
Ways and Means  
Judiciary  
Government Employees  
Ethics and Guidance

KENNETH P. ZEBROWSKI  
Assemblyman 96<sup>th</sup> District  
Rockland County

November 2021

Dear Friends:

I am writing to wish you and your family a very Happy Diwali.

I am thankful for our friendship and collaboration with the Indian Cultural Society of Rockland (ICSR) for all these years. ICSR is an important part of our community, representing hundreds of Indian American families throughout the county.

In conjunction with ICSR, we pass a resolution each year during the legislative session where we proclaim the month of August as Indian-American Heritage Month in the State of New York.

I am honored to author this resolution each year and am hopeful we can pass it again soon to recognize the countless contributions of Indian Americans in Rockland and throughout the entire State.

Wishing you a Diwali that brings happiness and joy to you and your family. Please be well and stay safe.

As always, never hesitate to reach out to my office with any questions or concerns. We can be reached at (845) 634-9791 or by email [zebrowskik@nyassembly.gov](mailto:zebrowskik@nyassembly.gov).

Sincerely,

Kenneth P. Zebrowski  
Member of Assembly

# Executive Committee



Rajiv Rohilla  
President



Heena Mehta  
President Elect



Abhineet Jha  
Secretary



Suresh Iyer  
Joint Secretary



Krishna Nagineni  
Treasurer



Ravi Dubba  
Joint Treasurer



Nikita Krishnan  
Public Relations Officer



## *Directors*



Raj Balapal  
Past President



Poonam Mohan



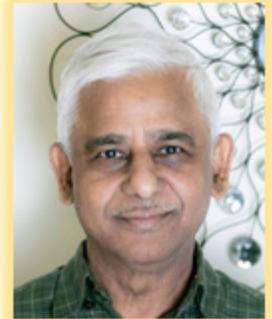
Reena Khanduja



Ajayveer Chapotkat



Sankaran Krishnan



Rajan Baranwal



Mayank Patel



Alka Shah



Chaitra Nama



Pradeep Asok



Pankaj Nigam



Padmini Shastry



**INDIA CULTURAL SOCIETY OF ROCKLAND INC.,**  
**TREASURER'S REPORT**  
**Jan. 01, 2020 to Dec. 31, 2020**

EVENTS	INCOME	EVENTS	EXPENSE
GRANT	\$ 5,420.00	VASANT UTSAV	\$ 5,140.79
VASANT UTSAV	\$ 838.84	INSURANCE	\$ 1,981.00
SPONSORS	\$ 6,600.00	NEWSLETTER/BROCHURE	\$ 2,412.00
BANK INTEREST	\$ 1,170.87	FATHER'S DAY (VIRTUAL)	\$ 618.56
MEMBERSHIP	\$ 8,329.51	INDEPENDENCE DAY (VIRTUAL)	\$ 428.34
INSURANCE (REFUND)	\$ 405.34	MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 138.29
NEWSLETTER/BROCHURE	\$ 150.00	CULTURAL SHOW	\$ 225.00
TOWARDS 2019	\$ 225.00	WEBSITE	\$ 954.10
		Accounting Services	\$ 500.00
		TOWARDS 2019	\$ 1,211.48

<b>INCOME TILL DEC. 31, 2020</b>	<b>\$ 23,139.56</b>	<b>EXPENSE TILL DEC. 31, 2020</b>	<b>\$ 13,609.56</b>
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OPENING BALANCE - JAN. 01, 2020

CHECKING A/C	\$ 69,780.79
SAVINGS (CD)	\$ 15,781.45
SAVINGS (CD)	\$ 40,633.39
SAVINGS (CD)	\$ 12,979.01

CLOSING BALANCE - DEC. 31, 2020

CHECKING A/C	\$ 79,310.79
SAVINGS (CD)	\$ 15,781.45
SAVINGS (CD)	\$ 40,633.39
SAVINGS (CD)	\$ 12,979.01

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 139,174.64</b>		<b>\$ 148,704.64</b>
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**INDIA CULTURAL SOCIETY OF ROCKLAND INC.,**  
**TREASURER'S REPORT**  
**Jan. 01, 2021 to Oct. 30, 2021**

EVENTS	INCOME	EVENTS	EXPENSE
GRANT (for Yr. 2020)	\$ 2,950.00	VASANT UTSAV (VIRTUAL)	\$ 1,694.44
SPONSORS	\$ 11,500.00	INSURANCE	\$ 2,195.42
BANK INTEREST	\$ 285.38	AAJA NACHLE (VIRTUAL)	\$ 135.00
MEMBERSHIP	\$ 781.53	ACCOUNTING	\$ 650.00
MASALA CRUISE	\$ 4,406.05	INDEPENDENCE DAY	\$ 5,329.93
PICNIC	\$ 2,239.76	MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 352.90
NAVRATRI	\$ 2,877.65	MASALA CRUISE	\$ 4,972.72
DIWALI	\$ 975.00	PICNIC	\$ 2,141.09
		NAVRATRI	\$ 7,070.87
		ANTAKSHARI (VIRTUAL)	\$ 220.00
		DIWALI	\$ 1,250.00

<b>INCOME TILL OCT. 30, 2021</b>	<b>\$ 26,015.37</b>	<b>EXPENSE TILL OCT. 30, 2021</b>	<b>\$ 26,012.37</b>
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OPENING BALANCE - JAN 01, 2021

CLOSING BALANCE - OCT. 30, 2021

CHECKING A/C	\$ 79,310.79	CHECKING A/C	\$ 148,707.74
SAVINGS (CD)	\$ 15,781.47	(Incl. CD Deposits-03/22/2021)	
SAVINGS (CD)	\$ 40,633.45		
SAVINGS (CD)	\$ 12,979.03		

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 148,704.74</b>		<b>\$ 148,707.74</b>
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*Wishing You and Your Families a Very Happy Diwali and a  
Prosperous New Year*



## ROCKTEN 2021

**Sankaran Krishnan (Captain)**

Pradeep Ashok  
Gerrad Augustine  
Govind Balakrishnan  
Ritesh Bansal  
Subhasis Bhadra  
Len Charles  
Francis Clement  
Stephen Dantu  
Apurva Dave  
Chirag Doshi  
Subbarao Gadi  
Jeetu Gupte  
Preet Hooda  
Kapil Khanduja  
Pragyakant Manglik  
Sanjiv Krishnan  
Manish Krishnan  
Paruyush Lakhtaria  
Parag Mehta  
Saurabh Mehta



Milan Pathak  
Suresh Ramaswamy  
Rajiv Rohilla  
Sunil Shah  
Amit Sareen  
Bipin Shah  
Vipul Shah  
Sam Shankar  
Arun Sharma  
Rakesh Shreedhar  
Satish Shreedhar  
Vineet Sikka  
Jasjit Singh  
Sarabjit Singh  
Vijay Soni  
Bangalore Sridhara  
Viny Srinivasan  
Dilip Subhedar  
Prashant Thapar  
Vinod Yaragudri

# INDIA CULTURAL SOCIETY OF ROCKLAND - SINCE 1971

## FOUNDING HISTORY

The India Cultural Society of Rockland has been passionately keeping the torch of Indian culture alive in the tri-state area since 1971. ICSR is a non-profit organization representing over 500 families of Indian origin in the county of Rockland, Orange, Westchester, and parts of New Jersey. ICSR is instrumental in promoting Indian culture, arts, music, and heritage to the local mainstream community through various events organized throughout the year.

In 1971 a group of well-meaning, passionate individuals from the Indian Community in Rockland got together to start an informal group that later morphed into an organizational concept by Late Dr. Rajavaidya, M.D.

## Past Presidents

1971/72 - Informal Group, Organizational Concept Started by the Late Rajavaidya, M.D.	1996 - Shashikant A. Shah
1973 - Satinder Ahuja, Ph.D.	1997 - Manju Jariwala
1974 - G.R. Padmanabhan, Ph.D.	1998 - Ratnaswamy Shankar
1975 - Ramesh Amin, M.D.	1999 - Vaibhavi Pradhan, Dds
1976 - Chandrakant Katira, Uma Vakil	2000 - Madhu Mehta
1977 - Atul Laddu, M.D.	2001 - Rao Tatapudy, Ph.D.
1978 - Dhun Patel, Ph.D.	2002 - Daksha Patel
1979 - Anjan Bhattacharya, Ph.D.	2003 - Keshav Shah
1980 - Prakash Mehta, Ph.D.	2004 - Bharati Hodarkar
1981 - Shela Bajaj	2005 - Ajayveer Chapotkat
1982 - Mahesh Kinkhabwala, M.D.	2006 - Inder Chaudhary, Ph.D.
1983 - Behroz Dutia	2007 - Panna Parikh
1984 - Vinod Shah	2008 - Jugal Agarwal
1985 - Maruti Kendale	2009- Vinayak Srinivasan, Ph.D
1986 - Usha Patel	2010- Sankaran Krishnan,MD
1987 - Anil Parikh	2011- Bindu Mehta
1988 - Bipin M. Shah	2012- Vijay Soni, Ph.D
1989 - Aruna Bharati	2013- Smriti Sridhara
1990 - Chirayu Shah	2014- Rajan Baranwal
1991 - Raj Bajaj	2015- Ajayveer Chapotkat
1992 - Kanti Gosrani	2016- Satish Shreedhar
1993 - Ramesh Shah	2017- Charu Krishan
1994 - Bharat Patel	2018- Poonam Mohan
1995 - Atul Desai	2019- Anil Mandapaka
	2020- Raj Balapal

## **OBJECTIVES**

Objectives of ICSR, according to its constitution, are:

- (a) To promote better understanding between the Nationals of India and those of America and other countries; and
- (b) To foster greater friendship among its members.

In order to achieve these objectives, the following means are used:

1. Provision and exchange of information about India,
2. Arrangement of literary activities and discussions,
3. Holding special programs for the promotion of art and culture,
4. Any other activities that promote these objectives (free community service in the form of health fairs, soup kitchens, clothing drives, etc.)

## **WEAVING THE CULTURAL FABRIC**

ICSR organizes mostly free programs throughout the year to promote cultural enrichment. **All are welcome to attend without any discrimination whatsoever.**

- ❖ The year begins with *Vasant Utsav*, where we celebrate the onset of spring through music, dance, an art show, and a sumptuous dinner.
- ❖ In April, we celebrate *Holi*, the festival of colors that includes color play, and traditional Indian snacks are served.
- ❖ *Navratri Raas & Garba* is the most awaited night of the year in October! Traditional costumes are displayed, and dances are performed.
- ❖ The festival of Lights- *Diwali* to celebrate the victory of good over evil, light over darkness is celebrated around November. We get together in song and dance and break bread together.

## **GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY**

- ❖ A *Food and Clothing Drive* for the needy is organized around Thanksgiving. The collected items are donated to People to People of Rockland for further distribution.
- ❖ ICSR continues its time-honored tradition of performing cultural dances for the patients, their families, and the staff at Helen Hayes Hospital. In May, choreographers and students from the ICSR community put up a talent show for the *Recreational Therapy event at Helen Hayes Hospital* in Haverstraw. Patients enjoy dance performances based on classical as well as popular Indian film music. Traditional Indian snacks are served at the social that follows.
- ❖ The seniors in the community look forward to the *Senior Trip* each year. They are sent on a road trip with their friends to various places of cultural and spiritual interests. Volunteers from ICSR arrange food, lodging, and tours at subsidized costs.
- ❖ The *Health Fair*, conducted in association with the *AAPI of Rockland*, is always a huge success both in terms of the number of free medical services provided and the number of people who attend. Physicians offer services such as blood work, eye screening, lungs check, blood pressure checks, dental care, nutrition advice, and free flu shots.
- ❖ ICSR organizes *Fundraisers* to support relief work after a natural disaster. The survivors of Tsunami in India in 2005, the Nepal Earthquake, and COVID-19 have benefited from this effort.

## **PROMOTING TALENT & CAMARADERIE**

- ❖ The *Annual Cultural Show* in May is the most popular and widely attended event of the year that showcases our younger generation's talent. Over 200 students from ages 4 to 18 participate in traditional Classical and Bollywood dances. We recognize the graduating high school

seniors from member families. Several public elected officials of Rockland County are honored at this program for their continued support.

- ❖ **Picnic** is the most awaited summer event. Committee members and volunteers get together outdoors by the lakeside to cook and serve food and organize various activities throughout the day, including kite flying, football, badminton, volleyball, and cricket.
- ❖ **India Day Parade** brings a little bit of India to the neighborhood by celebrating India's Independence in a colorful and vibrant manner. People march in traditional colorful costumes, and the parade is followed by India festival that includes flag hoisting, patriotic performances,
- ❖ **Father's Day Masala Cruise** was a new event introduced in 2017 to provide an informal social platform for families to mingle and while enjoying the scenic beauty for the Hudson Valley along with traditional Indian cuisine.

### SUPPORT AND SPONSORS

ICSR is proud to be recognized by the **Rockland County Legislature**. Over 30 **Grand, Annual & Event sponsors**, including local businesses and individuals, make generous donations and sponsor events that allow ICSR to bring quality programs to the community.

### MEMBERSHIP

Any person interested in fostering the ICSR objectives may apply for membership in the Society. Membership is open to all without discrimination.

### COMMITTEE

The ICSR committee runs on the advice, time, and energy provided by volunteers within the community. This committee is the governing body and consists of 19 officers who serve a term of one year. They are 7 Executive Committee members: President, President-Elect, Secretary, Joint Secretary, Treasurer, Joint Treasurer, Public Relations Officer, and 12 Directors. **The 2021 committee** consists of hardworking volunteers from various fields, including business, medicine, management, IT, and sciences.

#### Executive Committee

**President:** Rajiv Rohilla  
**President-Elect:** Heena Mehta  
**Secretary:** Abhineet Jha  
**Joint Secretary:** Suresh Iyer  
**PRO:** Nikita Krishnan  
**Treasurer:** Krishna Nagineni  
**Joint Treasurer:** Ravi Dubba

#### Directors:

Basavaraj Balapal (**Past President**),  
Chaitra Nama, Padmini Shastry, Pankaj Nigam,  
Mayank Patel, Pradeep Asok, Reena Khanduja,  
Alka Shah, Rajan Baranwal, Sankaran Krishnan,  
Ajayveer Chapotkar, Poonam Mohan

### REACHING OUT

Periodic updates about various upcoming events, past event photos, community news, are disseminated via 3 newsletters, emails, website, and social media.

- [www.icsronline.com](http://www.icsronline.com),
- [www.facebook.com/pages/India-Cultural-Society-Of-Rockland/](https://www.facebook.com/pages/India-Cultural-Society-Of-Rockland/)
- Email: [icsrinfo@gmail.com](mailto:icsrinfo@gmail.com), Phone- 1-347-688-7440

**Mailing address: PO Box 108, Nanuet, New York 10954**



## Youth Volunteers Activities

We are impressed by the interest and dedication shown by 24 super bright and very passionate 8-12 Grade ICSR Youth Wing Volunteers

Abhinav Khanduja	Swaneet Jha	Suchita Sridhara
Aishwarya Rajendran	Isha Patel	Diya Sharma
Aayush Sharma	Nayana Sujith	Kamya Ramakrishnan
Ashok Sathiyamoorthy	Praket Nigam	Anushka Singh
Nathan Yaragudri	Ryka Rohilla	Khushi Girish
Shaan Patel	Suhani Patel	Medha Mathur
Neha Krishnan	Mansi Pundukare	Divya Prasad
Ava Cherian	Visakhi Miriyapalli	Guru Vishnu Ramesh
Ella Cherian	Gia Patel	Nikhil Anthwal
Omkar Pathak	Varsha Jegan	Saanya Chaudhary
Sumeerin Thakur	Kavya Pradeep	Shreya Girish
Anushka Singh	Aarush Iyer	Alisha Agrawal
Amulya Mandapaka	Spurthi Setty	
Sumeerin Thakur	Medha Mahesh	

**Six professionals will mentor these volunteers through the course of the year in the following areas:**

Reena Khanduja, Abhineet Jha, Suresh Iyer, Poonam Mohan: Youth

Wing / Alumni network: "We cannot always build a future for our Youth, but we can build our Youth for the future". The Youth Wing has been an integral part of the ICSR Committee. The youth members have been very active in all the community events. They have shown great participation & enthusiasm in membership drives, food drives & also in all the events throughout the year. #ICSR2021 Youth Wing kick-off was held via Zoom on February 12th. 25 enthusiastic young boys & girls from ages 14-17 have joined the team. In an open discussion with a few ICSR team members (designated as mentors), the youth exchanged ideas & interests that will give them a sense of purpose while also keeping the community connected.

Alumni had contributed immensely when they were younger, and we are thankful to them. ICSR is what it is due to all their enthusiasm and spirit. The objective of forming ICSR Alumni group is to foster the spirit of giving in the form of sharing experiences and information that they have gained to the new kids at the cusp of starting college and their parents. Additionally, this will strengthen the ties between alumni and ICSR community as well as help in growing the ICSR family.

Nikita/Rajiv Rohilla: Publicity and Membership drives: Committed to connecting our community to its culture and the values it creates for our members of all ages and ultimately to increase our membership. Develop interpersonal skills, acquire more knowledge, confidence and develop an all-round personality of our youth which will help us secure a better future.

Reena Khanduja: Creative Writing & Social Media Promotions: ICSR Youth Wing continues to work on spreading awareness about the organization through social media and promotional campaigns. The volunteers are being coached to create written and graphic content to maintain ICSR's online cultural synopsis series about travel, arts and heritage. The idea is to provide a platform to for them to explore creative writing, practice safe and practical cyber use, actively contribute towards the organization & generate a stronger sense of belonging to ICSR and Indian culture in general.

Abhineet Jha: Development of Skills in Event Photography: After capturing ICSR events for past few years, it's time to share the tips and tricks of photography with our young talented volunteers. As a collaborative team, the photography wing of ICSR's Youth Program will get hands on experience from learning camera basics to capturing memorable moments at ICSR events. They will learn to work as a team, develop interpersonal and leadership skills while engaging with members of the community.

# HAPPY NAVRATRI (Oct 9<sup>th</sup>)

Namaste friends,

We hosted our first ever outdoors Navratri event this year on Saturday, Oct 9th and what a huge blessing in disguise it turned out to be. The weather was pleasant, the turnout was huge, we had great ambience and an absolutely amazing outcome. There were smiles, joy and happiness on everyone's face whoever got to be a part of this incredible event this year in the new outdoor surroundings.

As President, I would like to share my experience, and provide you with an insight on what it took to make this endeavor so successful.



Heading into the festive season with Delta variant of Covid-19 still lingering around, we weren't sure whether we would be able to host this event even this year. Keeping in mind the health concerns, our independent health advisory committee strongly recommended not to host this event indoors. Although many of ICSR members have chaired this event in the past very successfully, but no one has had the experience of arranging this in an outdoor settings because of which, even the thought of hosting this event in the outdoors did not occur initially. While we were so much looking forward to celebrate this joyful occasion with you, it was rather disheartening to be confronted with the limitations posed by CoVid19.

While my heart still wanting to somehow put this event together for our community with less than three weeks remaining, there was a glimmer of hope that arose from within the committee. Someone whispered, "why don't we host this event in the outdoors this time"!! And that is when we started to think and wonder, why not!! The health risk was significantly low, the weather didn't look too bad and there seemed enough appetite in the community willing to come out and join in the celebrations.

From being dismayed previously, we became optimistic and started to ink up the challenges and sure enough, the challenges were many. We only had less than three weeks to find a safe and suitable outdoor location to host Navratri, get necessary approvals/permissions in a very short time, make the announcement to the community, arrange for music & entertainment, arrange for food, decorations, and seating arrangements and so much more. We had to be mindful of the budget as well. It was suggested that we should not have any chair or co-chairs for this event but instead, the entire committee should work as one unit and that's exactly what we did.

At first, we considered the Congers Lake Gazebo as our venue but were denied permission to celebrate past 7pm. After making several calls to different locations that included The Boulder Stadium, Nanuet High School and Clarkstown South High School, we ultimately found this wonderful Gazebo at Rockland Lake State Park". Fortunately, it was available for the date of our event. We wasted no time in securing the place. Next, some of our members spent hours at the location after work to visualize its appearance after it gets dark to identify challenges and that wasn't good news. This place had no outdoor lights to make it accessible after dark. We found an answer for that also and despite severe shortage of Tower Flood Lights available for rent, we were able to find a vendor in Westchester and rent three of those to light up the place. Our next challenge was to arrange for some Patio Heaters to keep a section of Gazebo warm for the very young ones, elderly and for those who wouldn't dance much :-)) We were able to arrange those as well just in time. We decided to order freshly made pre-packed food which was picked up from Edison, NJ earlier in the afternoon that day by yours truly. Everyone enjoyed the food very much along with a hot cup of freshly made tea.

Our decor team did a great job and turned the place around within hours with wonderful decorations. Our tech team covered all the logistics from technical and electrical point of view. Our social media team also did a fantastic job in reaching out to the masses spreading awareness effectively. Our entire committee was present hours before the start of the event to put together heavy instruments, furniture, patio heaters and tower lights etc. Our Youth Wing members also came forward to help us in making this event successful.

This event was attended by approximately 250 guests. Only double vaccinated guests were allowed. We saw mothers with their infants in a sling, dancing away to the Garba tunes. We saw young kids, men, women and elderly folks come out and have a great time. Everybody loved the new Navratri ambiance in the outdoors and many even suggested that we should keep it outdoors even for future years. Some of you also suggested that we should host this event more than just once every year. We thank for your suggestions, - have taken note of those and will move forward in future with the most viable options.

We all have to make choices in our lives. We at ICSR had a choice to make ourselves this year. We were faced with either the harder alternative of committing to host this event in the outdoors or the more convenient one of cancelling it. I personally believe in "trying till we exhaust all options" even though it might appear difficult, and I might fail. But it's much better than not trying and failing anyways. We tried and it worked out. Fortunately, we have an extremely hard-working committee with "never say die" attitude. Everyone stepped up to the occasion when it mattered most and worked tirelessly in making it happen with huge success. We all made many fond memories with one another. There were so many storylines arising out of this amazing experience. Now we are all very proud of it.

Maa Durga had her blessings on all of us on this day which made this extremely unlikely event become possible against all odds.

I wish you all a happy festive season. May God bless us all!!

Jai Mata Ki

Rajiv Rohilla



# India Day Parade (Aug 14<sup>th</sup>)

On August 14th, we proudly celebrated India Day Parade & Festival. The Hudson Valley Malayali Association and Jeevan Jyoti members also walked the parade and joined in the celebrations. Both our committee and Youth Wing members who woke up early that morning and worked hard through the intermittent rains setting up the show mobile at the County Courthouse. The Rain Gods also showered their blessings upon us all during the parade and cultural show. Besides some brilliant dance performances and patriotic songs, this year's highlight was the Saree Show presented by twelve elegant ladies rocking their beautiful ethnic sarees representing different regions of India. This was unique and stunning.



# Summer Picnic (July 18<sup>th</sup>)

On Sunday July 18th, ICSR organized its 2nd in-person event of this year “Summer Picnic” at Congers Lake. We had over 150 guests including over 30 kids who were able to join us on this day. The weather turned out to be beautiful. There was light drizzle early in the morning, which the kids enjoyed thoroughly. Freshly made breakfast was served in the morning, followed by lunch and dessert in the afternoon besides watermelon and chaas. Some of the activities included cricket, badminton, volleyball, and kite flying. Undoubtedly, everyone present had a great time and built many pleasant memories.



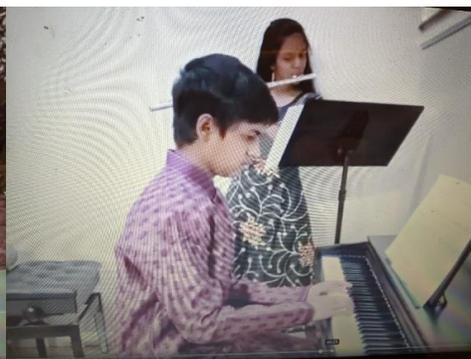
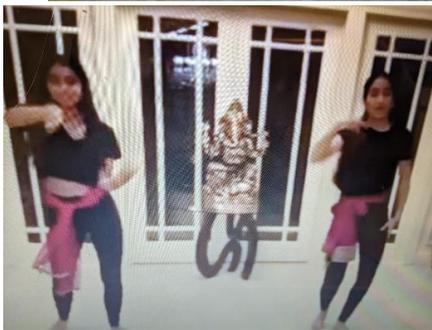
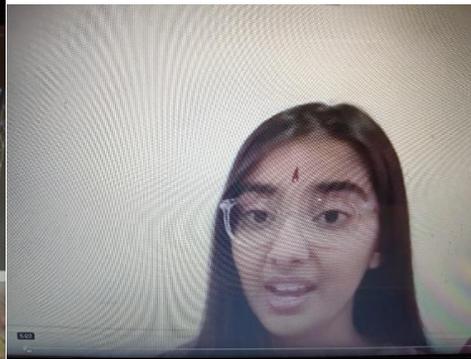
## Masala Cruise (June 26<sup>th</sup>)

ICSR conducted its popular annual masala cruise on the Hudson River on June 26. This was the first live in-person event of the year. With appropriate precautions, including accommodating guests only if they were completely vaccinated, 92 guests (out of a capacity of 100) sailed on the Pride of the Hudson from 6:30 to 9:30 PM. Guests enjoyed the amazing ambience while catching up with friends and family after a gap of several months imposed by the pandemic. The food and drinks were excellent as well as the company! With music and dancing, Great weather, beautiful scenery, and the camaraderie made it a true celebration. ICSR thanks the event chairs, Dr. Krishnan and Abhineet Jha as well as all the hard-working members who worked so hard to pull off this event successfully.

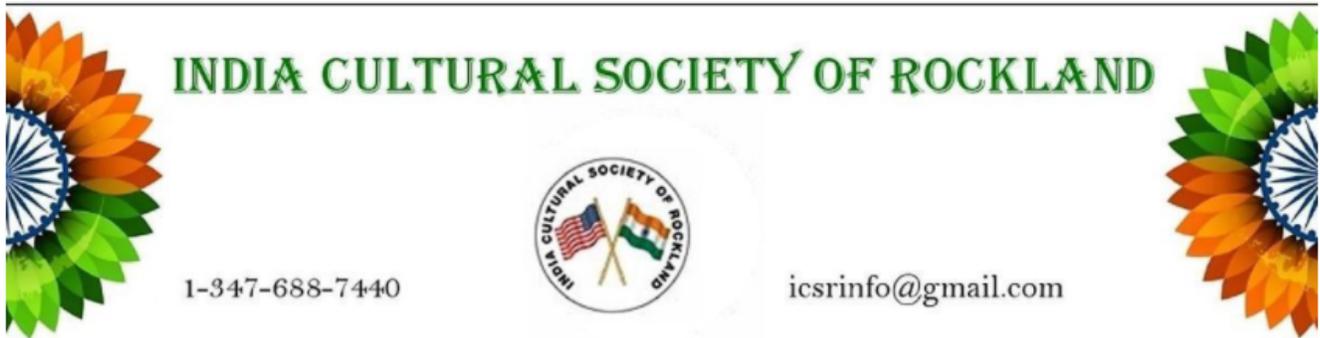


## Mother's Day Virtual Concert (May 8<sup>th</sup>)

While we were still not allowed to get together for in-person events, ICSR continued to bring quality programs to its community and on the occasion of Mother's Day, our own Youth Wing members put together a very entertaining program which included performances from the local community kids. This evening was dedicated to all the wonderful mothers in our community. The entire program from start to finish was organized by our Youth Wing volunteers. Their brilliant performances were aired on YouTube and Facebook which were viewed by many families sitting in the comfort of their homes. The wonderful Youth Wing of ICSR continues to do us proud by volunteering their time for community work.



## ICSR & AAPI Presents COVID-19 Virtual Roundtable Primary Care & Preventive Approaches To Illness(May 2<sup>nd</sup>)



ICSR, in conjunction with our long-standing community partner, AAPI of Rockland, would like to invite you to a virtual roundtable discussion on May 2, 2021. Sunday. 1130am-100pm. The topic will be primary care and preventive approaches to illness. Particularly the challenges posed by the ongoing pandemic

This would be a unique opportunity to interact with physicians from our own community and get responses to any questions you may have on the subject matter. panelists are well-known primary care physicians in our community:

- Moderator: Dr. Usha Krishnan, Current President AAPI of Rockland.
- Dr. Parag Shah (Internist)
- Dr. Neena Grewal (Internist)
- Dr. Arthi Divya Senra (Internist)
- Dr. Gomathi Adhiyaman (Pediatrician)

Like the first ICSR-AAPI event on COVID-19, this will also be a moderated discussion with audience interactions and questions (either directly or through the chat function on Zoom).

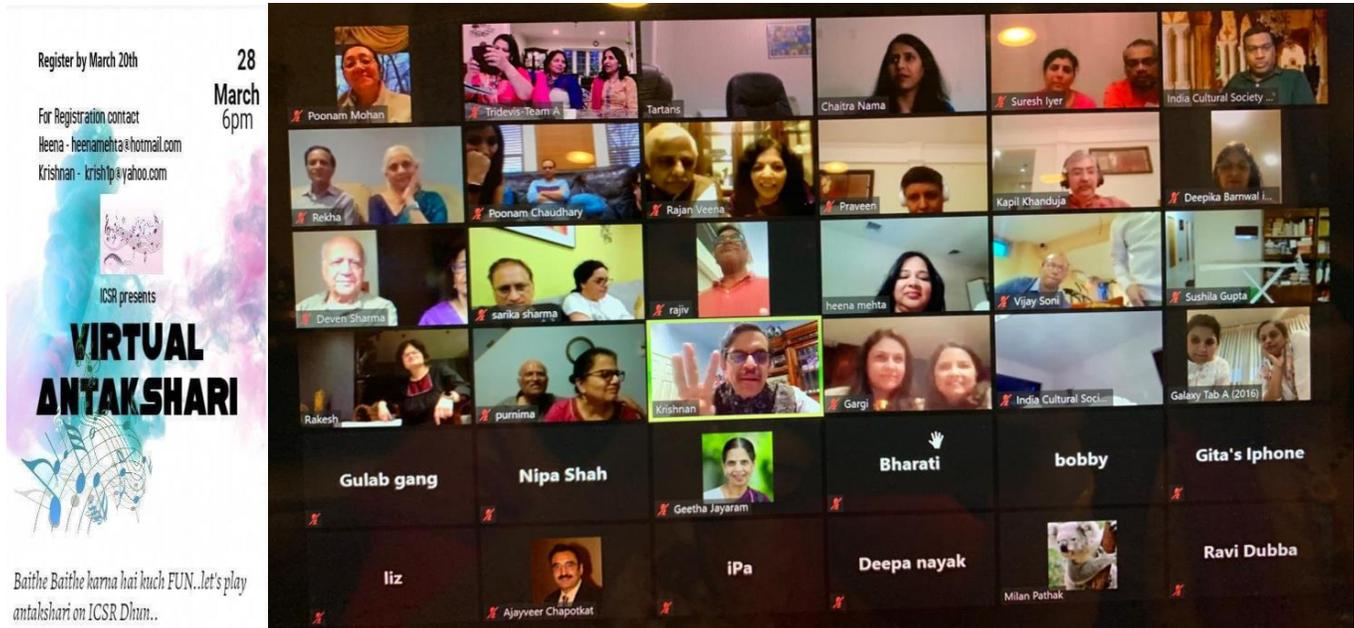
You may post questions in advance to [aapiofrockland@gmail.com](mailto:aapiofrockland@gmail.com) or ask questions live or post in the chatbox on the day of the event.

 Usha Krishnan	 India Cultural Society of Roc...	 Neena Grewal	 jr	 rajiv
 Krishnan	<b>Sunandan</b>	 Parag Shah	 Gita	 Vijaya's iPad
 Geetha Jayaram	<b>Gomathi Adhiya...</b>	<b>indra goohya</b>	<b>Manek's iPad</b>	<b>Girish</b>
 Arthi Senra	 mayankpatel	 jay	<b>rajini nandakumar</b>	<b>Anjana iPad Pro...</b>
<b>satish reddy</b>	<b>suhila gupta</b>	<b>Laley Cherian</b>	 banoo irani	 suresh

 suresh	 Sneh	 Jayanthi Raghunath	 Neeta D	 suresh
 Rajan Veena	 IPad	<b>purnima</b>	<b>Bharati</b>	<b>Raji Iyer</b>
<b>Smegati</b>	<b>varsha bhatia</b>	<b>iPad</b>	<b>Amulya Mandap...</b>	<b>Lata's iPad</b>
<b>Gita Raju</b>	<b>Anjoo's iPad</b>	<b>Alekhyia and Am...</b>	<b>sadhana</b>	<b>lalitha</b>
 Chandrika Patel	<b>Mani</b>	<b>Jacob</b>	<b>hemamalinimani...</b>	<b>sridharramaswa...</b>

# Antakshari (March 28<sup>th</sup>)

**Antakshari** was the first interactive program involving members of ICSR this year. Chaired by Dr. Krishnan and Heena Mehta, this event was conducted entirely online. With its unique format and enthusiastic response from the community, the event was extremely well received! 16 teams in a safe, socially distanced setting completed for the top spot. The event featured several variations of the popular Antakshari theme as well as a rapid-fire quiz model. The quality of the participants was excellent, and everybody thoroughly enjoyed, participants and guests alike. **Vinny and Padmini Srinivasan** won this year's event.





## Antakshari – Final Round with Top 4 Teams



## ICSR 2021 COAT DRIVE (From Feb 1st thru Feb 17th)

Frigid temperatures, pandemic. Job losses, all of these factors around us are what inspired ICSR as a team to organize a coat drive this year which was led by Mrs. Alka Shah. Inside our warm house with fireplaces and all, it is hard to judge what the needy and less fortunate ones go through, when they don't have enough coats and blankets to provide warmth to their families. In this time of dire need, the ICSR team stepped up and spread the word out through social media and several other postings and best of all word of mouth through family and friends and we were able to collect 2 pickup truck loads full of coats, winter accessories like hats, scarves and gloves, and blankets and all of these were donated to two churches in Nanuet and Hillburn, NY.

Our collective efforts provided a 1.5 garage full of new and gently used coats and blankets that will keep a lot of people warm and cozy in the cold winters. And the blessings received in return is the icing on the cake. The response received from both donors and recipients was a humbling experience for us all. A special thanks to Alka ji and the entire ICSR team for their support in this drive.



## Roundtable Discussion on COVID-19

On Sunday, February 28th, ICSR in conjunction with AAPI conducted its first virtual event of the year on community advocacy. A robust panel discussion on the current COVID-19 pandemic was well received. Over 65 families participated in this virtual event. The panelists included experts from our own community - Dr. Sankaran Krishnan, Pulmonologist, Dr. Jayesh Mehta, Pulmonologist, Dr. Bangalore Sridhara, Cardiologist and Dr. Raghunath Mehta, Psychiatrist. The panelists discussed the current situation of the pandemic, the current vaccination program as well as various ill effects of the virus, including mental health illness. They also responded to several queries from the audience. The 90-minute event closed out with plans for similar panel discussion on other health related issues throughout the year.



ICSR, in conjunction with our long-standing community partner, AAPI of Rockland, would like to invite you to a virtual roundtable discussion on **COVID-19 today - February 28 at 11:30 am.**

This would be a unique opportunity to interact with frontline physicians from our own community and get responses to any questions you may have on the subject matter. Names of the panelists are:

1. Dr. Sankaran Krishnan - Pulmonologist
2. Dr. Jayesh Mehta - Pulmonologist
3. Dr. Bangalore Sridhara - Cardiologist
4. Dr. Raghunath Mehta - Psychiatrist

[The discussion will be on the Zoom platform:](#)



## Vasant Utsav

Under normal circumstances, Vasant Utsav, one of our immensely popular programs is celebrated in-person where over 300 men, women & children enjoy a musical evening of music, dance, fun & frolic besides delicious food but in view of of the pandemic this year, ICSR decided to celebrate Vasant Utsav virtually this year. The program was aired on March 6th which was viewed by over 70 ICSR families sitting in the comfort of their homes enjoying a pleasant evening of some very entertaining bollywood musical evening and dance. Mr. Ajayveer Chapotkat along with other ICSR members worked very hard in putting this high quality program together for its viewers which was very well appreciated as well.



## SPOTLIGHT ON ICSR YOUTH WING

“We cannot always build a future for our Youth, but we can build our Youth for the future”.

The Youth Wing has been an integral part of the ICSR Committee. The youth members have been very active in all the community events. They have shown great participation & enthusiasm in membership drives, food drives & also in all the events throughout the year.

#ICSR2021 Youth Wing kick-off was held via Zoom on February 12th. 25 enthusiastic young boys & girls from ages 14-17 have joined the team. In an open discussion with a few ICSR team members (designated as mentors), the youth exchanged ideas & interests that will give them a sense of purpose while also keeping the community connected.

One such initiative has been “AAJA NACHLE” Virtual dance sessions for ages 3-10. About 30 kids signed up. 2 of the 4 sessions are done so far. A virtual treat to see the little ones having fun dancing & swinging to the beats of Bollywood led by our youth wing experts.

Also, kudos to the Youth Wing for their active participation in #ICSR2021 Coat Drive & help make it so successful.

There is much more to come from the youth wing- photography workshops, Tutor/mentor clubs & social media clubs to name a few. The plans will be unveiled as we go along.



**Namaste!**

**As you are all aware, ICSR engages High Schoolers in many volunteer activities that help them in developing their interpersonal skills besides getting volunteer hours. We are in the process of creating our 2021 Youth Wing now.**

**In view of COVID-19 still looming this year, we are planning to engage the youth wing volunteers in multiple Coat/Food Drives under the mentorship of select committee members and use their creative skills on our social media campaigns. If you have a member of your family who wishes to join this group, please reach out to the following ICSR members latest by Monday, Feb 1st:**

**Mr. Abhineet Jha, email: [abhineet@hotmail.com](mailto:abhineet@hotmail.com), phone: 201-951-9640**

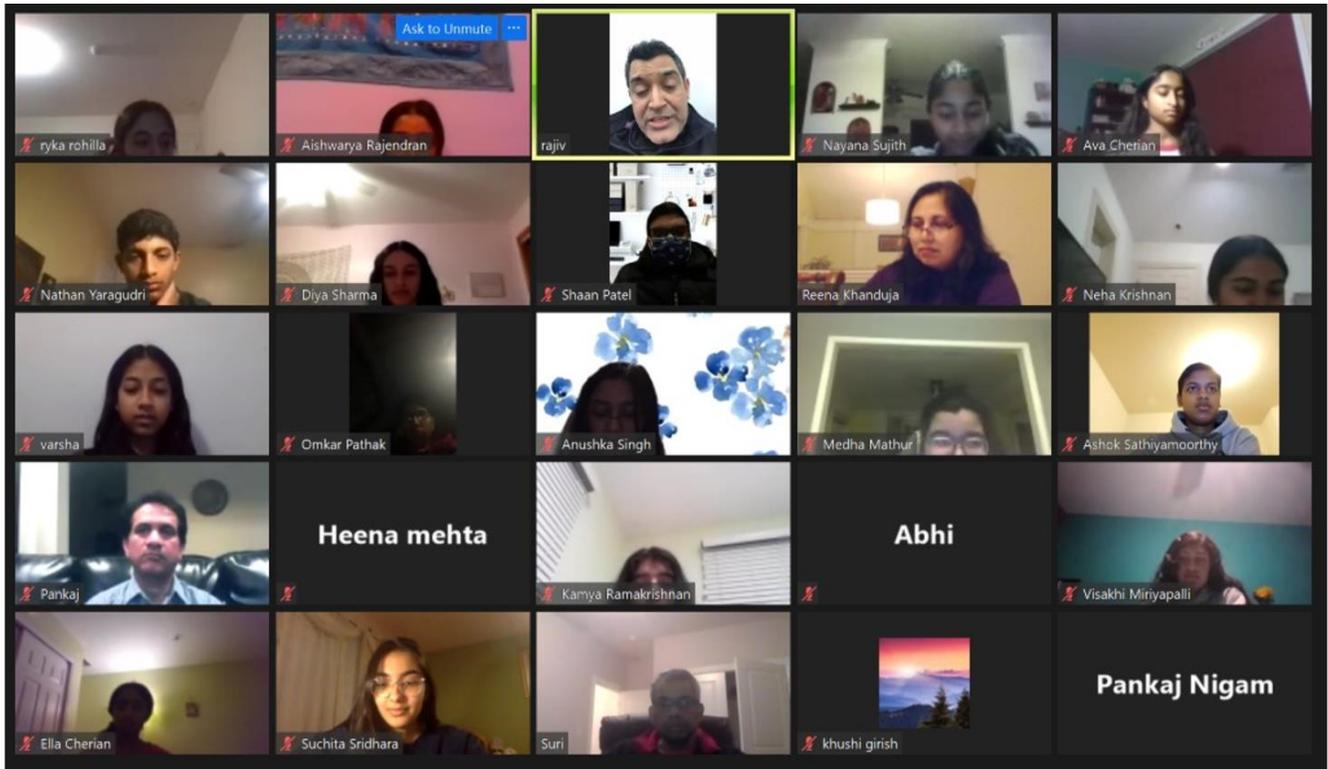
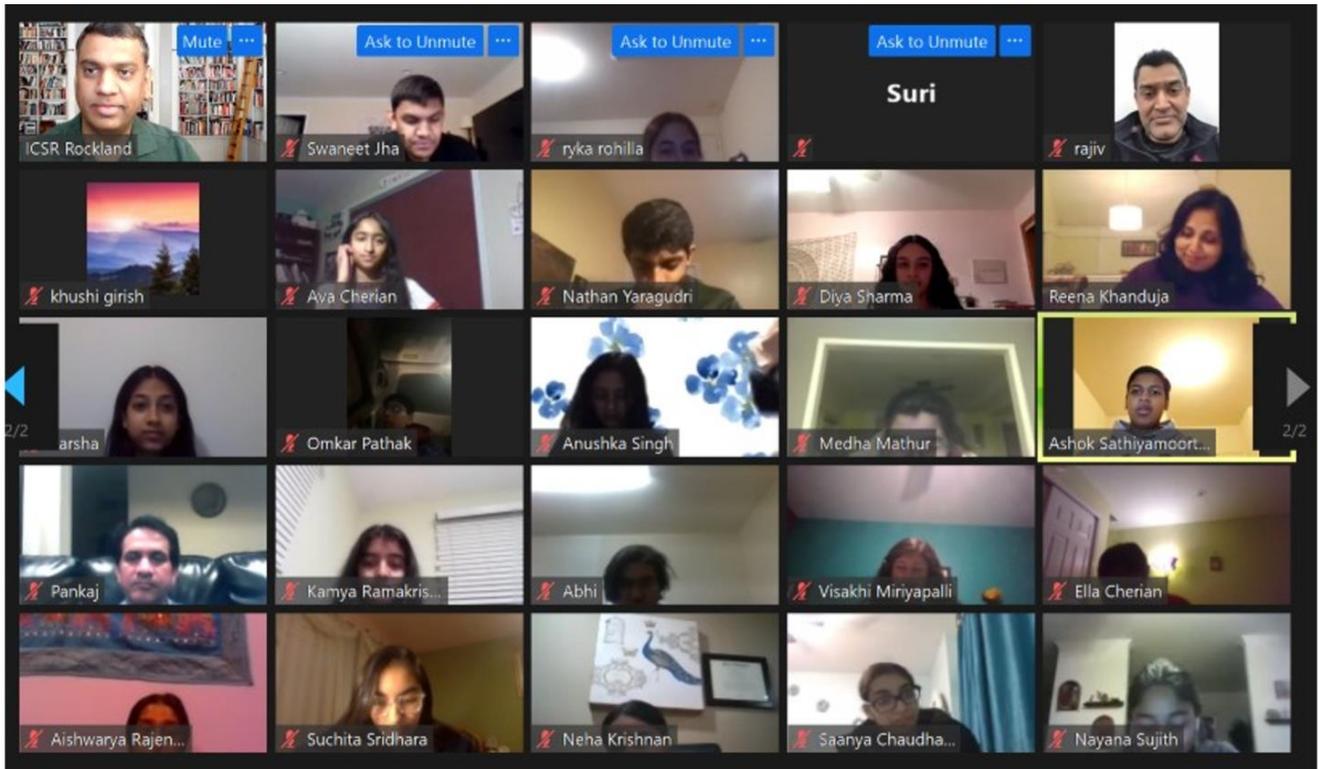
**Ms. Reena Khanduja, email: [reena\\_kapil@hotmail.com](mailto:reena_kapil@hotmail.com), phone: 845-598-3098**

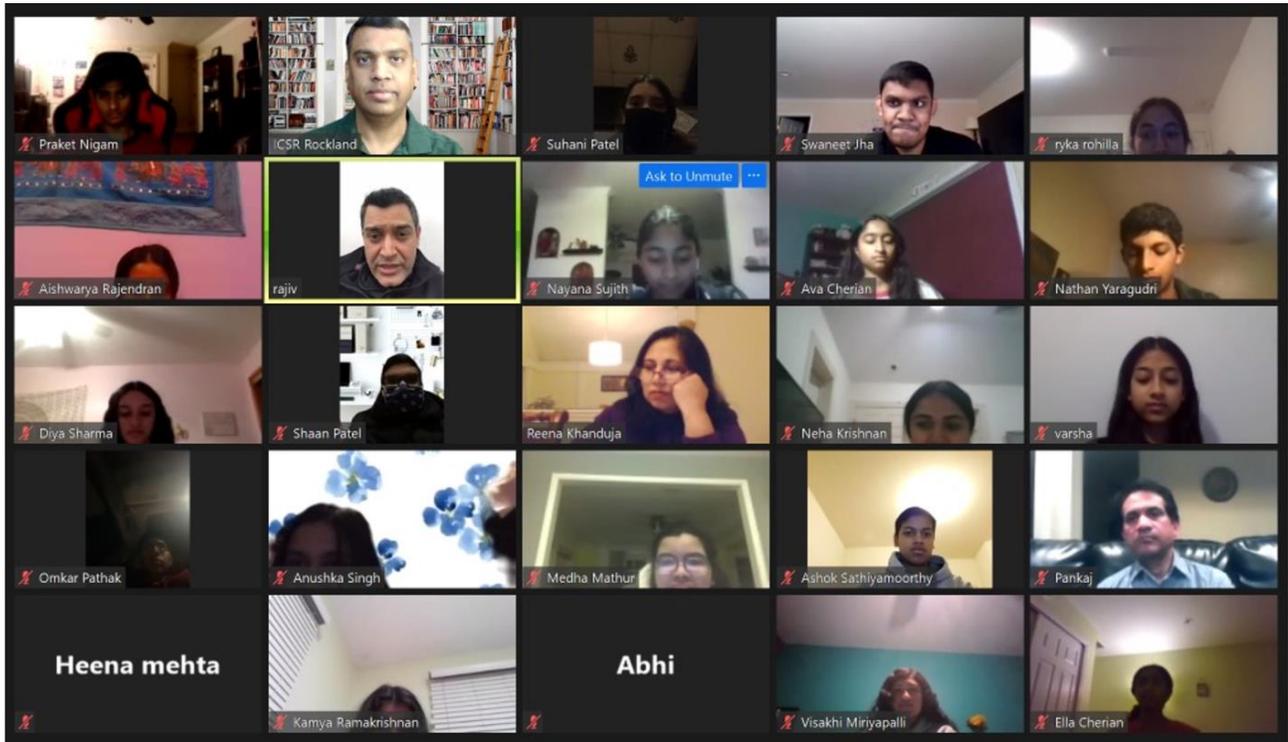
**Best wishes**

**ICSR**



# INDEPENDENCE DAY





## Swing Suchita Dance Session on March 7, 2021



## Let's Dance with Neha & Ryka on March 14, 2021



## ICSR Food Drive (April)

The Indian American community wanted to help the people in need during Covid, as a result decided to do a food drive. The goal was to raise 1500 pounds to give it to people in need. ICSR organized food drive and approached ICSR members, friends, family, and most of all the neighbors. Even though the drive started from 4/1 officially the flyers went out on 3/20/21. There was an overwhelming response from the community to help people in dire need. On 3/26 ICSR raised more than 2500 pounds of food and distributed to people in need the same day. The kids from the community came to help this great cause, they reached out to their friends on social media and raised several hundred pounds of food. The food collected by kids and ICSR members reached more than 1500 pounds and was donated to "People to People" a non-profit organization.



## ICSR 2021 Events List

Month	Program	Date	Venue
Jan - Dec	Independent Health Advisory Committee recommendations	Throughout 2021	Virtual
Jan - Dec	Virtual Concerts	From March to May	Virtual
Jan - Dec	Youth Wing activities	Throughout 2021	Virtual
February	Coat Drive	Feb 1 - 17th	Multiple drop off locations
	Roundtable Discussion on Pandemic	Sunday, Feb 28th	Virtual
March	Vasant Utsav	Saturday, March 6th	Virtual
	Antakshari	Sunday, March 28th	Virtual
April	Food Drive	April 1 - 18th	Multiple drop off locations
May	Virtual Concert involving local youth/talent	Saturday, May 8th	Virtual
June	Cruise	Saturday, June 28th	Newburg NY
July	Summer Picnic	On Sunday, July 18th	Congers Lake
August	India Day Parade & Festival	Saturday Aug 14 <sup>th</sup>	Main Street & Court House, New City.
October	Navaratri Night	Saturday, October 9th	Rockland State Park, Congers
November	Diwali Dinner and Dance	Sunday Nov 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	Darbe Mehr Zoroastrian Temple
November	Youth Meet	Friday, Nov 26 <sup>th</sup> 6 pm - 8 pm	Palisades Mall Community Ctr



*Wishing all a  
Happy Diwali and  
a Prosperous New Year*



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# Dear Tennis

Dear Tennis...

From the day in kindergarten  
When I picked up my first tennis racket,  
Practicing and hitting shots  
With those foamy tennis balls  
In the big gym of St. Augustine's Elementary  
I knew one thing was true:

I fell in love with you.  
A love and passion so deep  
within my heart and soul  
I gave you my all.

As a four-year-old girl  
Hitting with all of my strength to my dad  
I could see how far I could go.  
And so I ran for it.  
I worked and I conditioned.  
I chased every short ball for you.  
You asked for my loyalty,  
So I gave you my all.  
I put in my heart and body,  
Because I knew this was for me.

I played through the pain and exhaustion  
Not because I was told to,  
But because I needed to.  
I did it all for YOU.  
Because that is what happens  
When something makes you feel as  
Powerful as you have made me feel.  
You gave that four-year-old girl her wish,  
Playing Varsity as a freshman; with my Nanten.  
And I'll forever love you for it.  
But one day, I won't be able to provide that loyalty  
to you.  
I'll play my heart out any and every season you ask.  
My heart can take the lectures,  
My mind can take the pressure,  
And my body will give you whatever it's got left.  
And for that I am thankful.

I'll never be "ready" to let go.  
But I will try to accept it,  
Only when the time comes.  
But for now, I hope my body,  
My heart, my mind and soul  
Can provide for you what you have for me.

And we both know, no matter where my next  
journey lies,  
You'll" always have this hold over me.  
I'll always be the little girl with her dad  
Begging to go rally or volley in the basement or  
driveway  
In ready position.  
Racket ready in my hands, feet moving.  
And then, I swing.  
I love you forever,

BY: Ryka Rohilla





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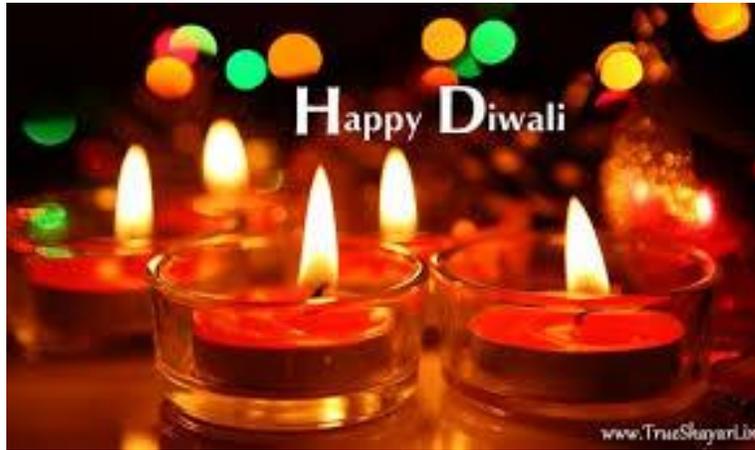
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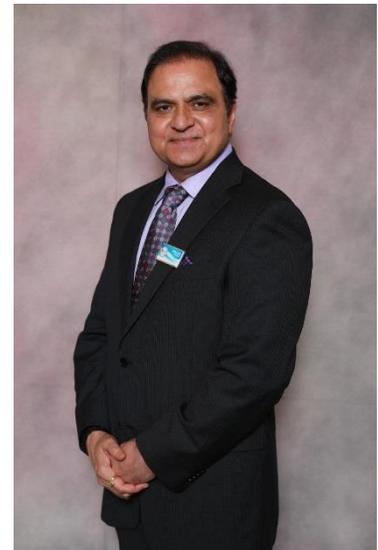
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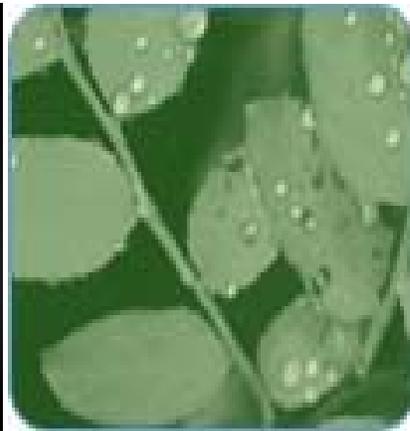
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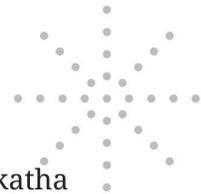
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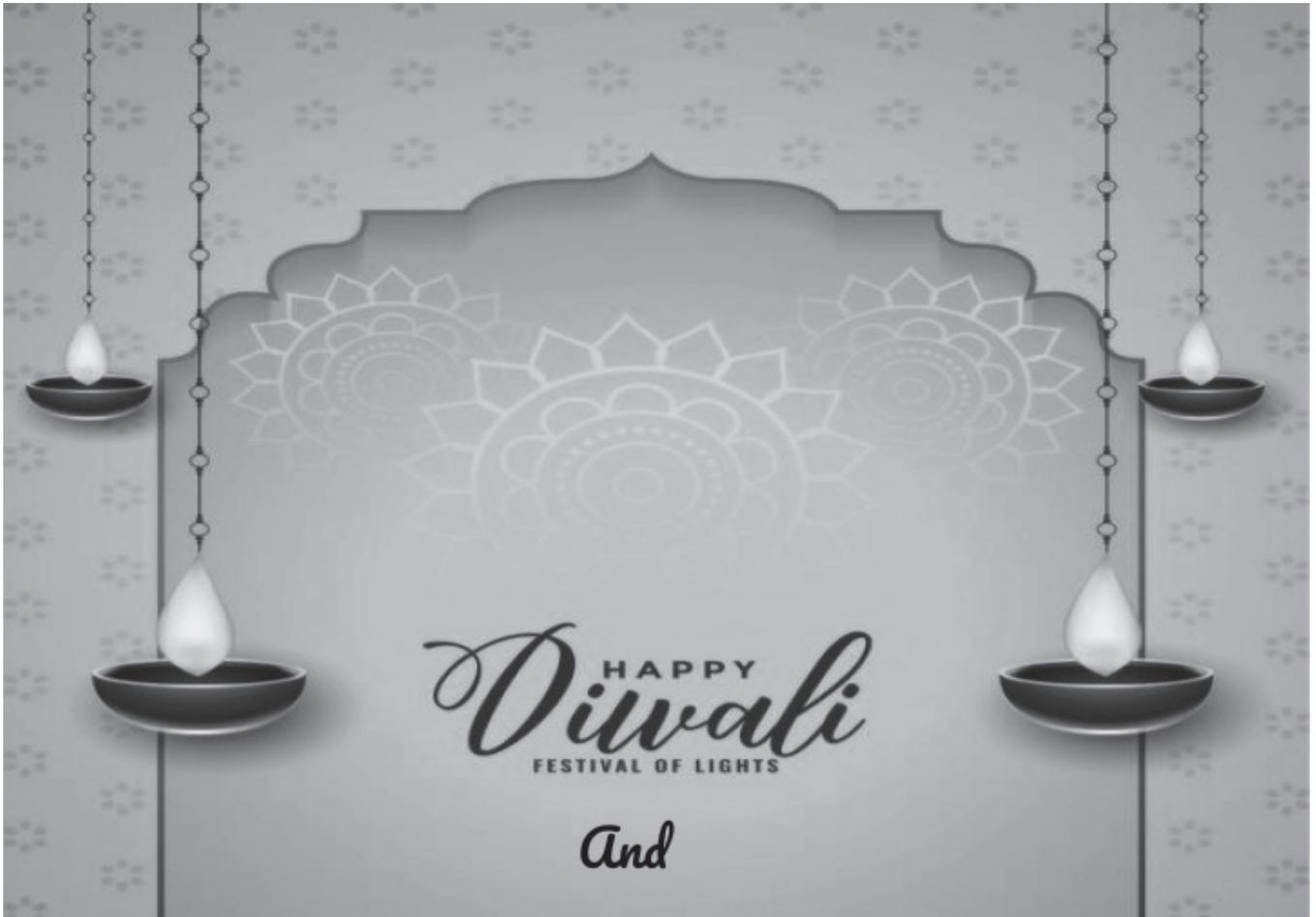
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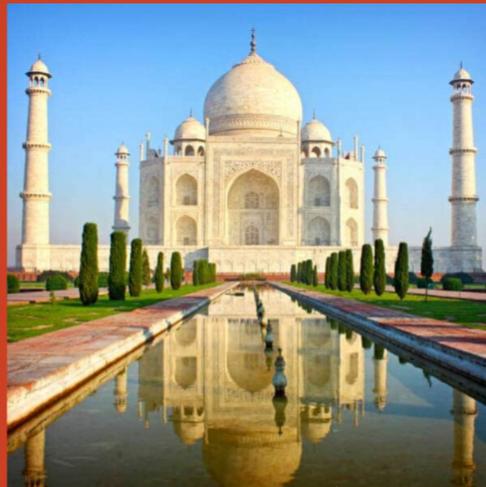
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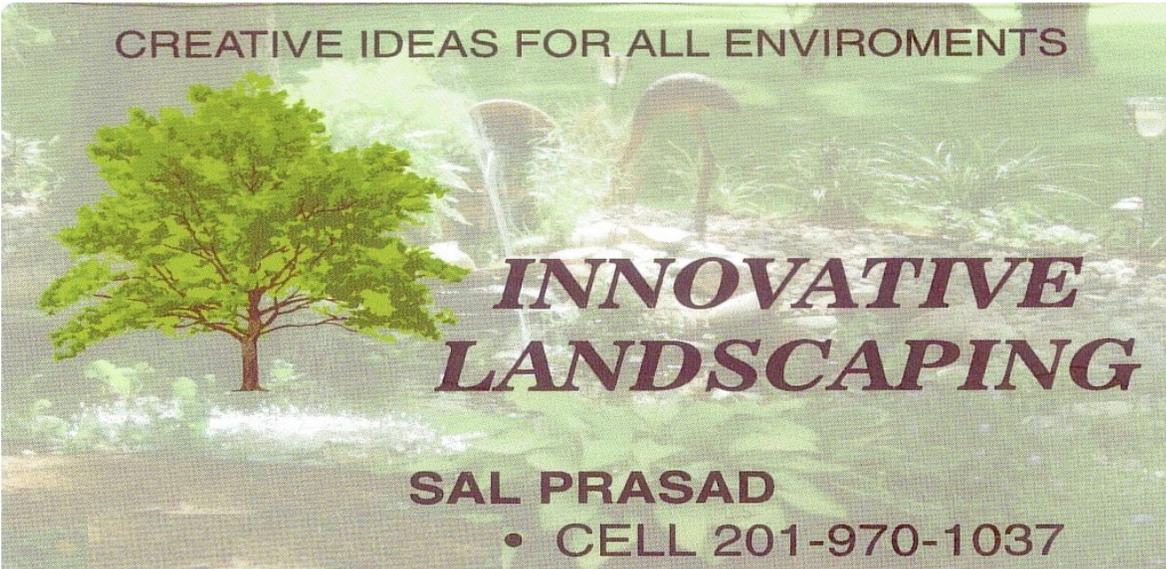


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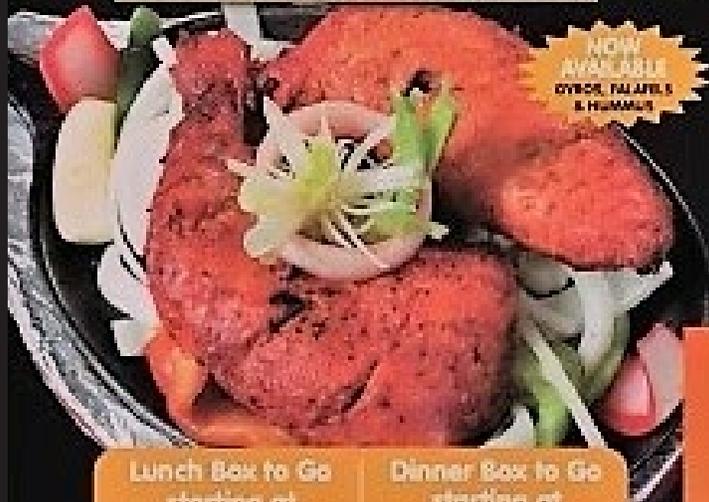
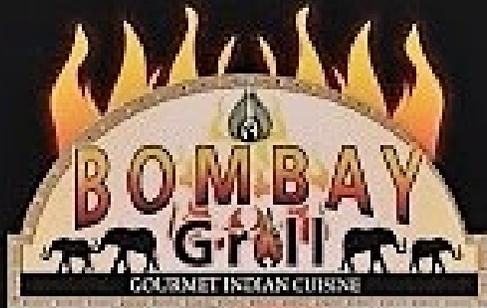


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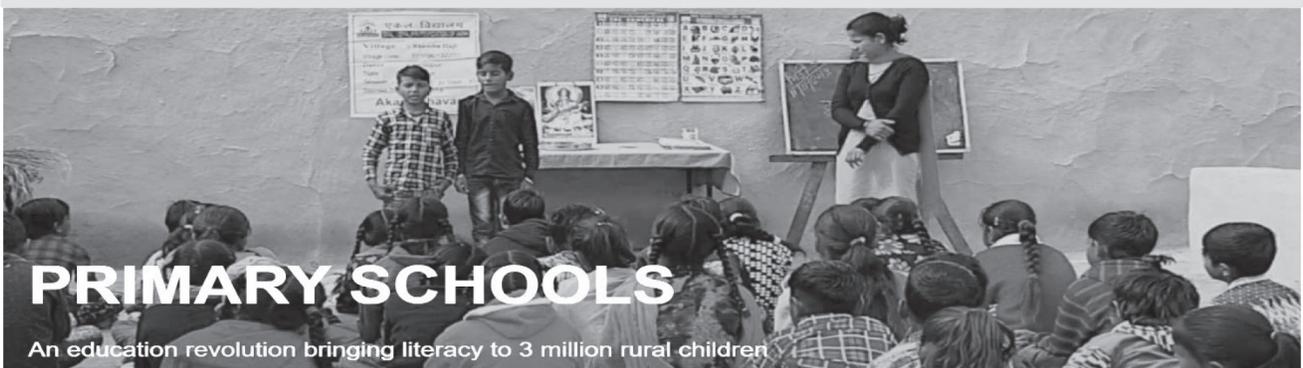


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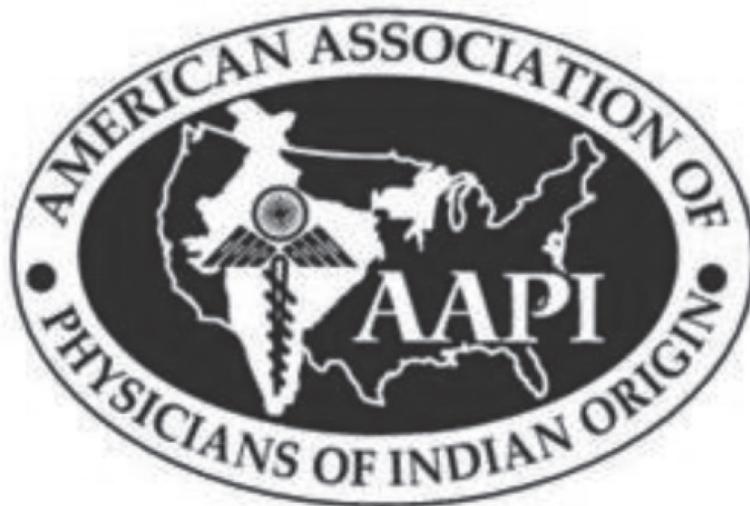
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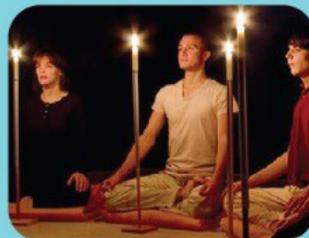
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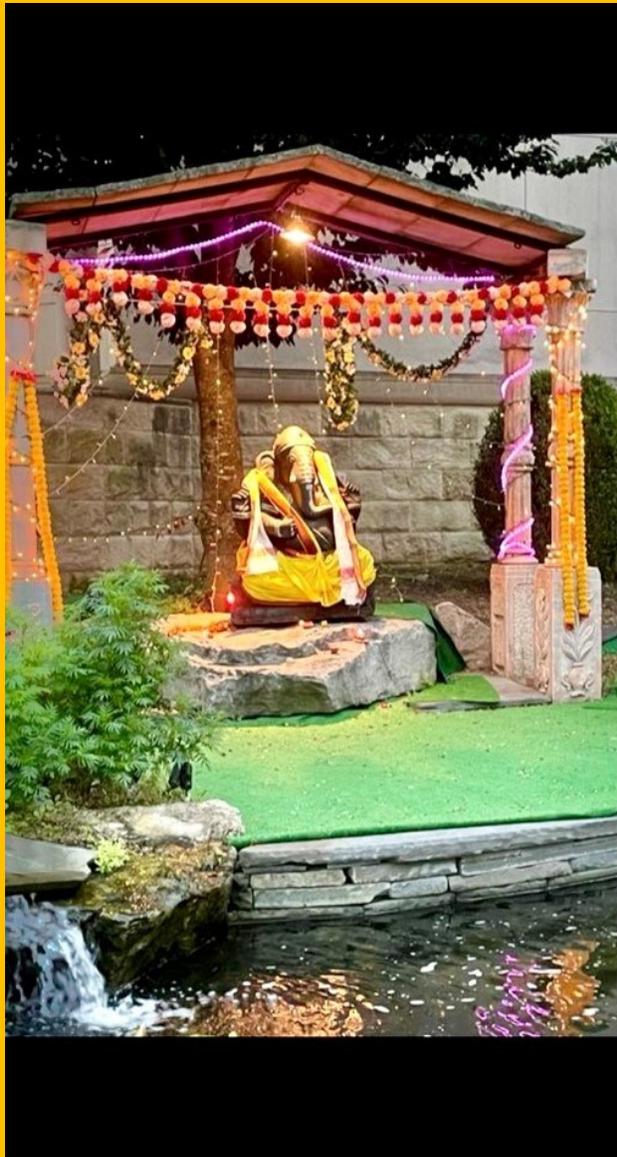
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