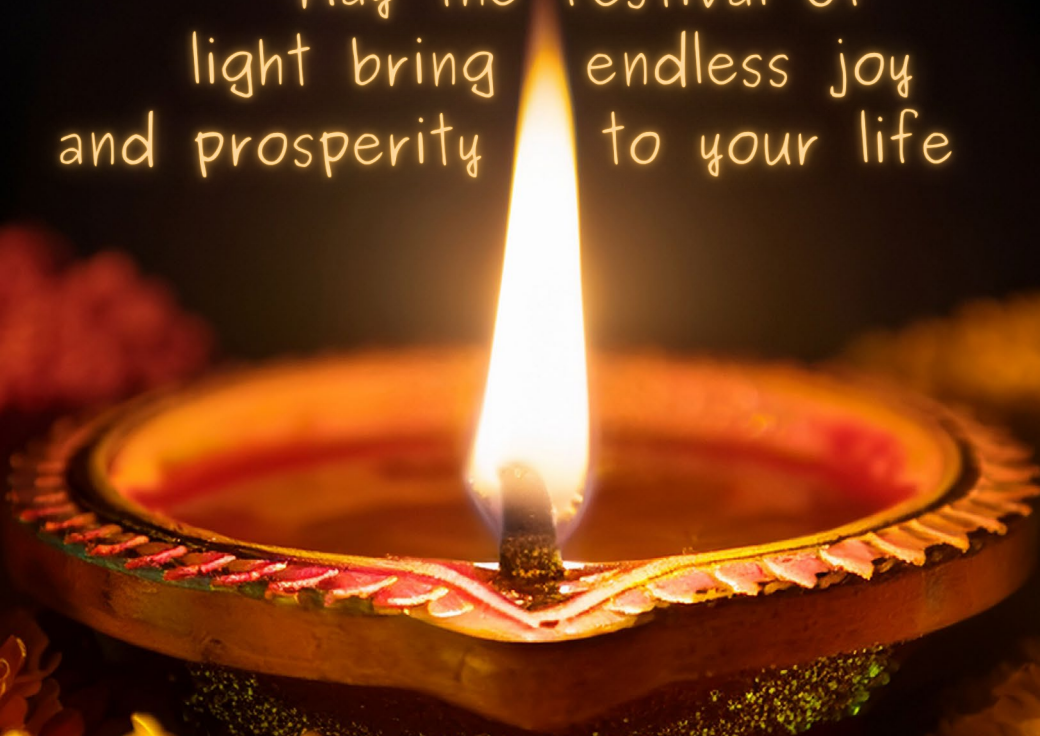


India Cultural
Society of Rockland
invites you to



a night of
Diwali
splendor
2025/2022

May the festival of
light bring endless joy
and prosperity to your life



May the divine light of Diwali
spread peace, prosperity,
good health and happiness to all.

Happy Diwali!

Best wishes from
C.V. and Sushuma Shashikumar

Happy
दीपावली



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INDIA CULTURAL SOCIETY OF ROCKLAND

845-535-9822
<https://icsronline.com>



icsrinfo@gmail.com



President's Message



Namaste and warm holiday greetings to my extended ICSR families.

It has been an absolute honor and privilege to serve as president of ICSR. For over 5 decades, ICSR has been an integral part of so many growing families. I am proud of the fact that not only my children, but now my grandkids are growing up with the essence of what ICSR strives for, namely cultural awareness, humanitarian efforts, fostering unity and spreading our rich and diverse heritage.

I would like to thank all of the past presidents and their hardworking committees for paving the road and laying a strong foundation upon which we have continued to build a deeper connection to our roots while weaving the cultural fabric, thread by thread across generations. ICSR continues to reach newer heights and this would not have been possible without the support of our generous sponsors, county of Rockland Grants and all of those who volunteered and helped whenever needed. Most of our events this year have been sold out a few days before, which is a testament to ICSR's commitment to bring newer and more interactive programs to engage people of all ages.

The year 2025 started with a very successful coat drive in February, benefiting patrons of Healing House Ministries whose mission is to enrich the lives and well being of those in dire need of help. We introduced our first new event for 2025 on Feb. 23rd, "Bollywood Funfest" where folks of all ages were dressed up to enact their favorite "Bollywood Star" and in the process showcase their talent whatever it may be. This was very well received by the community. A month later, on March 23th we had our "Vasant Utsav" event which was an all over carnival feel, from the food to the henna and desserts, to celebrate spring and all of its positive vibes. We had a very successful Food Drive in April where 3 vans full of dry non-perishable food were donated to benefit those that are less fortunate. On April 26th, we celebrated the festival of colors "Holi" event with Congers Lake as our backdrop and it was a housefull event where everyone enjoyed playing with dry colors while also dancing to melodious music with sumptuous meals to keep their spirits happy.

On May 9th, we organized our very popular event “Cultural Show” which had over 200 participants from the age of 3 to adults showcasing their various talents including Bollywood and Classical dance to singing and more.

June 18th we took 2 bus full of seniors to Akshardhaam temple and Sayen Gardens for a whole day full of religious fulfillment and enjoyment.

June 29th was a very special day for ICSR’s history as for the first time, ICSR presented a debut live concert featuring a renowned artist from India, Priyanka Barve, in the historical and regal Tarrytown Music Hall, which was very fascinating and entertaining. So many eager marchers from all over Rockland and the tri-state area took part in our India Day Parade on Aug. 16th to proudly celebrate India’s 79th Independence Day. We had many different vendors showcase their businesses while many of our artists performed in a Cultural Show to display their vocal and dance skills to Bollywood Beats. On Sept. 7th, we had our “My Friend Ganesha” event commemorating Lord Ganesha by offering a Pooja where Ganesha idols were individually made by our young kids, complemented by mouthwatering traditional Indian food, Music and dance. Just that, ICSR joined hands with AAPI to conduct an annual health fair in September where all kinds of preliminary health checkups were done for free and flu shots also were given. We introduced our 3rd new event for 2025, Fall Foliage Tour on Oct. 11th where 2 buses full of very enthusiastic guests were taken to Thacher’s State Park near Albany for a day full of breathtaking and serene nature hikes and lots of fun, food and music to go along.

Today, we come together to celebrate the festival of lights at our iconic Diwali Gala Dinner and Dance event which has been super exciting for all of us from the planning phase itself. The two remaining events will be Youth Meet on Nov. 28th featuring college grads mentoring our youth to strive towards leadership development and college and career goals. Dec. 14th will be our Holiday Fun Night celebrating the festive holiday season and spreading joy and cheer amongst all of us.

I am beyond humbled as I reminisce over the past many months of this year as to how it has fulfilled and enriched me and once again, I thank my entire team for their support, guidance and camaraderie which helped me lead this year with such amazing and successful activities. We look forward and strive to keep bringing innovation, technology and creativity as we raise the bar higher each year.

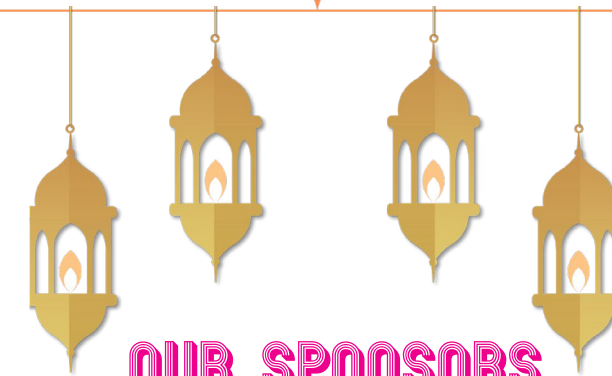
I cannot forget my husband and my kids for their support and dedication throughout my year.

Warm Regards,

Alka Shah, President 2025

(845)661-2072

email-alkavs111@gmail.com



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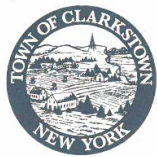
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Mrs. Charu and Sanjiv Krishan
Mrs. Bhavna and Mahesh Patel
Subzi Mandi Farmers Market
Mr. Rajan and Veena Baranwal



TOWN OF CLARKSTOWN

GEORGE HOEHMANN
SUPERVISOR

October 2025

Indian Cultural Society of Rockland

Dear Friends at ICSR,

Today as we celebrate the beautiful and important feast of Diwali, I am delighted to send special wishes to the India Cultural Society of Rockland. As we gather, 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 our town. It brings great comfort to have your friendship, and know of your strong and deep commitment to our community. I am grateful for that light and all that you bring to the Town of Clarkstown.

Continue to make our world a brighter and happier place, your light shines forth!

With warm personal regards,

George Hoehmann
Supervisor

GH/es



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

October 2025

Dear Friends of the India Cultural Society of Rockland:

I am delighted to send my best wishes and support for the India Cultural Society of Rockland (ICSR) for its Annual Diwali Dinner Dance Gala.

For over 50 years, ICSR has kept the Indian heritage and culture alive in our Rockland community through events promoting arts, music, and entertainment aimed at uniting and educating residents.

Thank you for your continued efforts to highlight and celebrate cultural events that will be passed on to future generations to come. These types of celebrations help our Rockland community foster a better understanding among all.

On behalf of the people of Rockland, I am proud and honored to express my heartfelt congratulations to the India Cultural Society of Rockland on this momentous occasion.

Sincerely yours,

Edwin J. Day
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

2025
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

DIRECTORS



ALKA SHA
President



SURESH IYER
President Elect



CHAITRA NAMA
Secretary



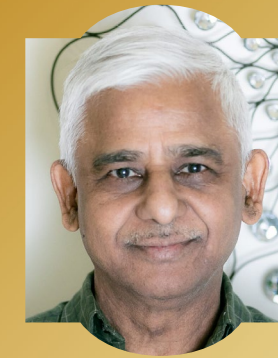
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Past President



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Joint Secretary



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29 Walter Hammond Pl, Waldwick NJ 07463

SUSHIL T. KAPADIA, CPA, EA
HEMISH S. KAPADIA, CPA, EA



Tejas S. Kapadia
ATTORNEY AT LAW

29 Walter Hammond Place
Waldwick, NJ 07463
Tel.: 201 632 1529 | Fax: 201 447 2922
tejas@kapadialaw.com



INDIA CULTURAL SOCIETY OF ROCKLAND

845-535-9822
<https://icsronline.com>



icsrinfo@gmail.com



Secretary's Message



Wishing everyone a very Happy Diwali! May this festival of lights bring joy, prosperity, and peace to you and your families. May the glow of diyas and the spirit of togetherness illuminate our hearts and guide us toward hope, harmony, and happiness.

As I reflect on my time serving as the Secretary of the India Cultural Society of Rockland (ICSR) in 2025, I am filled with immense gratitude and inspiration. It has truly been an honor to serve this incredible community — one that continues to embody the values of unity, culture, and compassion.

Throughout the year, I have witnessed the strength and spirit of our community shine through every event, celebration, and initiative. From vibrant cultural festivals like Holi and Diwali to meaningful gatherings and volunteer efforts, each moment has been a reminder of what makes ICSR so special — our collective dedication to preserving our heritage while embracing everyone with open hearts.

Serving alongside such passionate and selfless individuals on the organizing committee has been both humbling and motivating. I've learned so much from each of you, and I'm deeply thankful for the trust and support I've received throughout this journey.

As I look ahead, I carry with me a renewed sense of purpose and pride in being part of a community that celebrates togetherness, diversity, and the joy of giving back.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all the volunteers, sponsors, and community members who poured their time, energy, and heart into making every event such a wonderful success. Your enthusiasm, dedication, and unwavering support have truly been the driving force behind it all. I'm so grateful for everything you do to help our community shine brighter with each celebration.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Chaitra Nama

Secretary, ICSR 2025

**INDIA CULTURAL SOCIETY OF ROCKLAND INC.,
TREASURER'S REPORT
Jan. 01, 2024 to Dec. 31, 2024**

EVENTS	INCOME	EVENTS	EXPENSE
MEMBERSHIP	\$ 10,843.78	ACCOUNTING	\$ 813.47
GRANT	\$ 12,900.00	INSURANCE	\$ 2,926.52
SPONSORS	\$ 26,831.00	MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 1,584.71
VASANT UTSAV	\$ 3,904.05	VASANT UTSAV	\$ 5,655.17
HOLI	\$ 1,951.70	HOLI	\$ 2,114.83
CULTURAL SHOW	\$ 2,150.00	CULTURAL SHOW	\$ 5,425.39
FATHER'S DAY CRUISE	\$ 10,511.30	FATHER'S DAY CRUISE	\$ 9,653.69
SENIOR'S TRIP	\$ 1,740.00	SENIOR'S TRIP	\$ 3,740.00
SUMMER PICNIC	\$ 2,390.71	SUMMER PICNIC	\$ 2,614.62
INDIA DAY PARADE	\$ 550.00	INDIA DAY PARADE	\$ 4,694.75
MY FRIEND GANESHA	\$ 1,819.23	MY FRIEND GANESHA	\$ 1,402.40
NAVRATRI	\$ 10,544.12	NAVRATRI	\$ 9,868.00
DIWALI	\$ 18,081.96	DIWALI	\$ 19,096.82
FAMILY NIGHT	\$ 1,624.07	YOUTH MEET	\$ 603.46
		FAMILY NIGHT	\$ 3,447.48
INCOME TILL DEC. 31, 2024		EXPENSE TILL DEC. 31, 2024	
	\$ 105,841.92		\$ 73,641.31
OPENING BALANCE - JAN. 01, 2024		CLOSING BALANCE - DEC. 31, 2024	
CHECKING A/C	\$ 78,811.85	CHECKING A/C	\$ 111,012.46
Annuity Deposits with Int.	\$ 103,755.07	Annuity Deposits with Int.	\$ 105,687.54
TOTAL	\$ 182,566.92	TOTAL	\$ 216,700.00

**INDIA CULTURAL SOCIETY OF ROCKLAND INC.,
TREASURER'S REPORT
Jan. 01, 2025, to Oct. 15, 2025**

EVENTS	INCOME	EVENTS	EXPENSE
MEMBERSHIP	\$ 12,435.00	ACCOUNTING	\$ 1,309.94
GRANT	\$ 3,000.00	INSURANCE	\$ 3,176.31
SPONSORS	\$ 40,901.00	MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 609.04
VASANT UTSAV	\$ 4,131.82	VASANT UTSAV	\$ 6,096.83
HOLI	\$ 2,020.00	HOLI	\$ 2,719.45
CULTURAL SHOW	\$ 1,810.00	CULTURAL SHOW	\$ 5,794.17
Bollywood Funfest	\$ 960.00	Bollywood Funfest	\$ 2,500.08
SENIOR'S TRIP	\$ 3,773.00	SENIOR'S TRIP	\$ 5,840.85
Musical Show	\$ 20,522.00	Youth Bowling	\$ 455.97
INDIA DAY PARADE	\$ 555.00	Musical Show	\$ 18,128.74
MY FRIEND GANESHA	\$ 1,705.00	INDIA DAY PARADE	\$ 6,711.27
NAVRATRI	\$ 8,682.00	MY FRIEND GANESHA	\$ 2,194.78
Fall Foliage	\$ 3,540.00	NAVRATRI	\$ 5,440.46
Interest (Annuity)	\$ 1,655.37	DIWALI	\$ 1,081.43
		AAPI Health Fair	\$ 42.27
		Fall Foliage	\$ 3,817.99
INCOME TILL OCT. 15, 2025		EXPENSE TILL OCT. 15, 2025	
	\$ 105,690.19		\$ 65,919.58
OPENING BALANCE - JAN 01, 2025		CLOSING BALANCE - OCT. 15, 2025	
CHECKING A/C	\$ 111,012.46	CHECKING A/C	\$ 134,643.99
Deposits with Int.	\$ 105,687.54	Deposits	\$ 125,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 216,700.00	TOTAL	\$ 259,643.99

Note: Please note that certain expenses related to Navaratri, Diwali, and Fall Foliage are still pending and have not yet been included in the report above.

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BEST WISHES,

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INDIA CULTURAL SOCIETY OF ROCKLAND - (SINCE 1971)

FOUNDING HISTORY

The India Cultural Society of Rockland (ICSR) has proudly upheld the torch of Indian culture in the tri-state area since its founding in 1971. As a non-profit organization, ICSR represents a vibrant community of over 500 families of Indian origin spanning Rockland, Orange, Westchester counties, and parts of New Jersey. Through a rich array of events held year-round, ICSR plays a pivotal role in preserving and promoting Indian culture, arts, music, and heritage, fostering a meaningful connection with the broader mainstream community.

The journey of ICSR began in 1971 when a group of passionate, community-minded individuals from the Indian diaspora in Rockland came together to form an informal group. Their dedication and vision culminated in the formal establishment of ICSR, inspired by the organizational leadership of the late Dr. Rajavaidya, M.D. Today, this legacy thrives as ICSR continues to serve as a cultural bridge, celebrating the richness of Indian traditions while embracing the diversity of its surroundings.

Past Presidents

1971/72 - Informal Group, Organizational Concept Started by the Late Rajavaidya, M.D.	1997 - Manju Jariwala
1973 - Satinder Ahuja, Ph.D.	1998 - Ratnaswamy Shankar
1974 - G.R. Padmanabhan, Ph.D.	1999 - Vaibhavi Pradhan, Dds
1975 - Ramesh Amin, M.D.	2000 - Madhu Mehta
1976 - Chandrakant Katira, Uma Vakil	2001 - Rao Tatapudy, Ph.D.
1977 - Atul Laddu, M.D.	2002 - Daksha Patel
1978 - Dhun Patel, Ph.D.	2003 - Keshav Shah
1979 - Anjan Bhattacharya, Ph.D.	2004 - Bharati Hodarkar
1980 - Prakash Mehta, Ph.D.	2005 - Ajayveer Chapotkat
1981 - Shela Bajaj	2006 - Inder Chaudhary, Ph.D.
1982 - Mahesh Kinkhabwala, M.D.	2007 - Panna Parikh
1983 - Behroz Dutia	2008 - Jugal Agarwal
1984 - Vinod Shah	2009- Vinayak Srinivasan, Ph.D
1985 - Maruti Kendale	2010- Sankaran Krishnan,MD
1986 - Usha Patel	2011- Bindu Mehta
1987 - Anil Parikh	2012- Vijay Soni, Ph.D
1988 - Bipin M. Shah	2013- Smriti Sridhara
1989 - Aruna Bharati	2014- Rajan Baranwal
1990 - Chirayu Shah	2015- Ajayveer Chapotkat
1991 - Raj Bajaj	2016- Satish Shreedhar
1992 - Kanti Gosrani	2017- Charu Krishan
1993 - Ramesh Shah	2018- Poonam Mohan
1994 - Bharat Patel	2019- Anil Mandapaka
1995 - Atul Desai	2020- Raj Balapal
1996 - Shashikant A. Shah	2021 - Rajiv Rohilla
	2022 - Heena Mehta
	2023 - Ravi Dubba
	2024 - Abhineet Jha

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 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.
- ❖ *My Friend Ganesha, 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.
- ❖ The Year will end with a Family Holiday Party celebrating the Holiday session in Rockland County.

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.

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.
- ❖ *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.

SUPPORT AND SPONSORS

ICSR is proud to be recognized by the **Rockland County Legislature**. Over 20 **Annual 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. There are 7 Executive Committee members: President, President-Elect, Secretary, Joint Secretary, Treasurer, Joint Treasurer, Public Relations Officer, and 12 Directors. **The 2025 committee** consists of hardworking volunteers from various fields, including business, medicine, management, IT, and sciences.

Executive Committee

President: Alka Shah

President-Elect: Suresh Iyer

Secretary: Chaitra Nama

Joint Secretary: Reena Khanduja

PRO: Nikita Krishnan

Treasurer: Rammohan Malla

Joint Treasurer: Sunil Sah

Directors:

Abhineet Jha (**Past President**),
Ravi Dubba, Heena Mehta,
Rajiv Rohilla, Rajan Baranwal,
Aparna Kotha, Praveen Kumar,
Vidya Arambya, Charu Krishan,
Dr. Sankaran Krishnan, Hetal Patel,
Krishna Nagineni.

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,
- www.facebook.com/pages/India-Cultural-Society-Of-Rockland/
- Email: icsrinfo@gmail.com, Phone- 1-845-535-9822

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

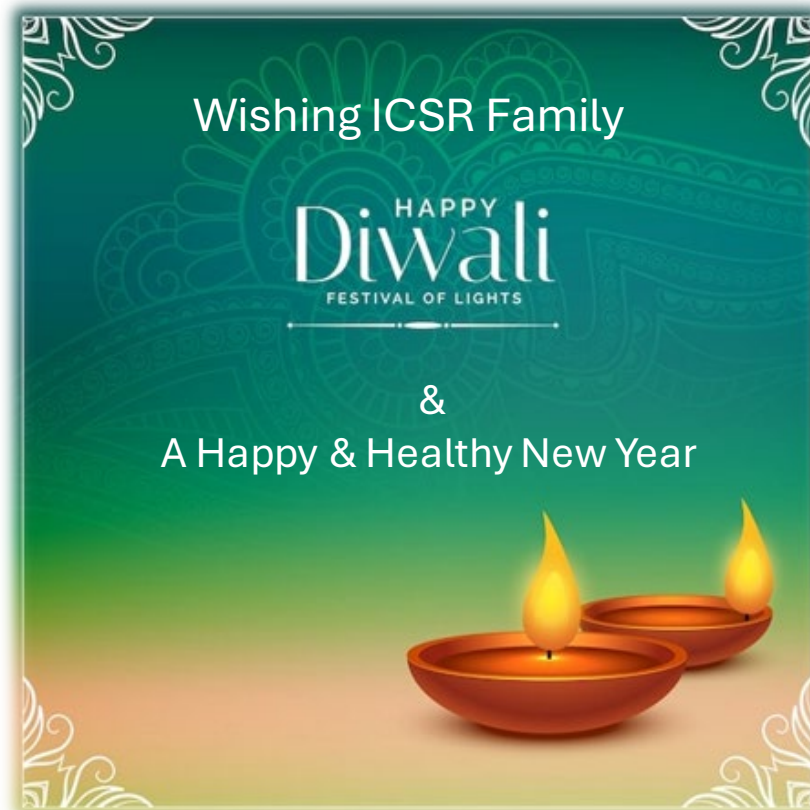
ICSR WhatsApp
Group



Become an ICSR
Member



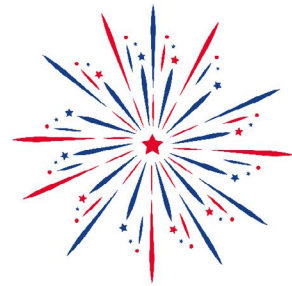
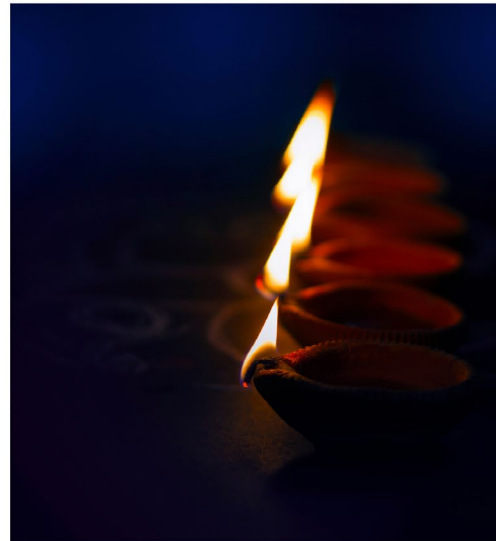
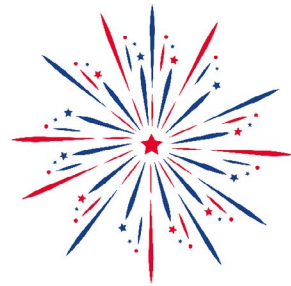
Youth Wing
Registration



Best Wishes
Eastchester Service Center Inc.
381 White Plains Road
Eastchester, NY 10709

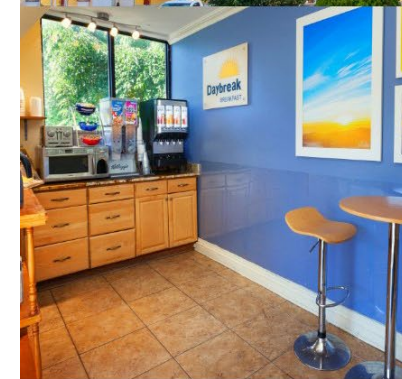


Happy Diwali



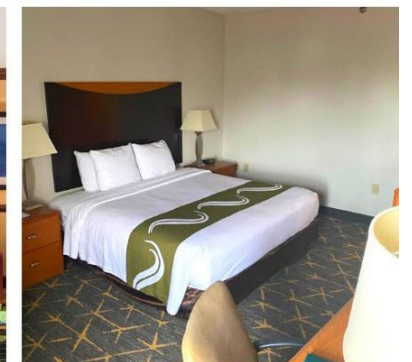
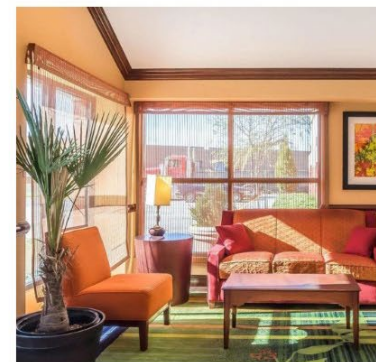
AAPI of Rockland

American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin



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Wishing you a Happy Diwali

Best Wishes



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Viyada Sarabanchong, M.D.
Yaron D.Langman, M.D.
Shino J Prasadhan MD
Janice Jang, M.D.
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Jennifer C. Poterbin,M.S., FNP-BC

Pomona Professional Plaza East*974 Route 45 *Suite 2000*Pomona, NY 10970
(845) 354-3700 * Fax: (845) 354-5439
www.ddar.com

🪔 happy diwali 🪔

Wishing you all a Happy,
Healthy, & Prosperous
New Year!

The Patel Family



361 Route 59, West Nyack, NY 10994

25 Route 59, Nyack, NY 10960

3372 Palisades Center Drive, West Nyack, NY 10994

301 Route 304, Bardonia, NY 10954



INDIA CULTURAL SOCIETY OF ROCKLAND

845-535-9822
<https://icsronline.com>



icsrinfo@gmail.com



Embracing Culture and Community: A Decade with ICSR



As I reflect on my journey with the India Cultural Society of Rockland (ICSR), I am filled with gratitude for the vibrant tapestry of experiences that have enriched my family's life over the past decade. Recently, I had the honor of joining the ICSR committee, allowing me to contribute more deeply to an organization that has been a cornerstone of our cultural and social engagement.

ICSR, a premier community organization serving Indian Americans in the Tri-State area for over 50 years, strives to bring cultural events showcasing

Indian heritage to both younger and older generations alike.

Throughout the year, ICSR orchestrates a myriad of events that celebrate our rich heritage, fostering a sense of unity and belonging among members. From the exuberant Holi festivals that drench participants in a kaleidoscope of colors to the serene Diwali gatherings illuminated by countless diyas, each event is a testament to our collective commitment to preserving and sharing Indian culture.

Among these celebrations, Navratri holds a special place in my heart. This nine-night festival honors the divine feminine, with each night dedicated to different forms of Goddess Durga.

The rhythmic clapping of hands, the swirling of vibrant ghagras, and the infectious energy of Garba and Dandiya Raas encapsulate the spirit of Navratri. Dancing during these nights has been a source of immense joy for me. Initially, my son Ved was hesitant to join in the Garba festivities. However, over the years, he has not only embraced the dance but has also become an enthusiastic participant, reveling in the communal harmony that Navratri fosters.

Our involvement with ICSR has been profoundly beneficial for our family. It has provided us with a platform to connect with like-minded individuals, resulting in friendships that we cherish deeply. These relationships, forged over shared cultural experiences, have become an integral part of our support system, offering both companionship and a sense of extended family.

For Ved, ICSR has been instrumental in his personal growth. Participating in cultural shows as both a performer and a choreographer has allowed him to explore and express his creativity. These experiences have not only deepened his appreciation for our heritage but have also honed his leadership and collaborative skills. The opportunities provided by ICSR have been invaluable in shaping his identity and confidence.

As a committee member, I am excited to contribute to the planning and execution of events that celebrate our traditions and bring our community closer together. The dedication and passion of the ICSR team inspire me, and I am eager to work alongside them to continue the organization's legacy of cultural enrichment.

In conclusion, our association with ICSR has been a journey of cultural immersion, personal development, and the cultivation of lifelong friendships. I encourage all members to actively participate in the society's events and initiatives. Together, we can ensure that our rich heritage thrives and that the bonds within our community continue to strengthen for generations to come.

Hetal Patel

ICSR Director

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BOLLYWOOD FUNFEST

The stage was set, the lights were flashing, and the music was pulsating! Our first ever Bollywood FunFest was a spectacular celebration of music, dance, and masti!

Rockland's want to be actors and actresses effortlessly delivered filmy dialogues and hook steps on the red carpet, showcasing their stunning Bollywood-inspired outfits.

The crowd went wild as DJ Bobby spun the hottest Bollywood tracks, keeping everyone on their feet. A Bollywood songs inspired game tested our participants' musical skills and fast fingers!



A delicious array of Indian cuisine catered from Mumbai Katta, from spicy street food to sweet treats left us asking for more! Even the food signs were filmy!

It was an unforgettable night of fun, friends, and Bollywood magic!

As the curtains closed and lights were out, we are sure the guests wanted to sing "Abhi na jao chhod kar ke dil abhi bhara nahi...."

VASANT UTSAV

On Sunday March 23rd, ICSR celebrated Vasant Utsav - A Musical Celebration of Life dedicated to the spring festivals of India!! The event took place at Pascack Community Center in Nanuet. It was co-chaired by Charu Krishan and Rajiv Rohilla.

With a view to bring some newness to Vasant Utsav, we decided to give it a festive "Mela" look!! We introduced a "Henna Tattoo Stall" that attracted many visitors!! We also had "The Bangle Swap Corner" which also drew lots of crowds!! There was also some beautiful "Rangoli Arts" on display from our own community members and of course, our decor team put together a stunning "Photo Booth" where everyone took wonderfully elegant pictures with Pagdis, Safas and traditional Topis on!!

Sunny and Kajal enthralled the crowds for over two hours and made this an amazing musical night. We also arranged a "Bhangra Workshop" led by Ria, Nikita and Ruby. Almost everyone stood up and took part in this fun activity and made some wonderful memories.

Another new idea was a "dessert potluck" which included regional traditional items like Pongal, Halwa, Kheer, Gulgulay, Coconut Laddoo, Suji Laddoo, Shreekhand and more - all voluntarily prepared by members from our own community.

This was a sold-out event. We had over 250 attendees who got to mingle with other community members, got a chance to indulge and engage with one another in fun activities, enjoyed delicious food and great entertainment.

On behalf of ICSR and its Vasant Utsav team, extending my warm regards !! On behalf of



ICSR and its Vasant Utsav team, extending my warm regards!!

COAT DRIVE

ICSR for years has been striving for cultural and humanitarian initiatives and in February, we had our 2025 clothing/coat drive. This benefited patron of Healing House Ministries and we were able to keep a lot of people warm during the frigid cold temperatures this winter.

Unfortunately, there are lot of people suffering, underserved and needy and ICSR along with the generosity of so many community members were able to collect 3 large SUV vehicles worth of coats, clothing and winter accessories, and to see their faces light up when they saw the enormous collections was the icing on the cake and reward for us at ICSR. We are very grateful to the entire community who joined hands and came together to support this noble cause.



YOUTH WING

Your contributions to Indian cultural society are nothing short of remarkable. As the torchbearers of tradition and the vanguards of change, you embody the spirit of dynamism and dedication that is essential for the flourishing of our cultural heritage.



Through your tireless efforts, you have infused new life into traditions, breathing fresh perspectives. Your passion for preserving our rich culture while simultaneously embracing modernity has been instrumental in bridging the gap between the past and the present.

Your commitment to nurturing the next generation of cultural custodians is commendable. By engaging with young minds through education, mentorship, and outreach programs, you are ensuring that our traditions continue to thrive for generations to come.

In a rapidly changing world, your role as ambassadors of Indian culture is more crucial than ever. Your passion, creativity, and dedication serve as an inspiration to us all. May you continue to lead with enthusiasm, integrity, and innovation, shaping a brighter and more vibrant cultural landscape for India and the world.



Holi

On behalf of the organizing committee, we extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who joined us for the Holi festivities. Your presence, joy, and enthusiasm made the celebration truly special. It was a day filled with laughter, vibrant colors, delicious food, and unforgettable moments that will be cherished for years to come.

This year also marked a new and meaningful addition to our celebrations — the Holika Dahan ceremony, symbolizing the victory of good over evil and the renewal of positive energy. Gathering together around the sacred fire created a beautiful sense of connection and reflection that set the perfect tone for the festivities that followed.

The Holi celebration at Congers Lake was a true testament to the spirit of unity and inclusivity that defines our community. It was heartwarming to see people of all ages come together to play with colors, celebrate, and share in the joyous spirit of Holi. Events like these remind us of the importance of community and the bonds that bring us closer together.



Annual Cultural Show

May brings in our ever-popular Cultural Show which truly is the heart of ICSR. It embodies the essence of what ICSR is all about. The evening was filled with dances performed by kids, moms, dads and grandparents from within our community truly showcasing our rich tradition & culture. With an audience of 400+ to cheer them the atmosphere as always was very festive. This year we had around 180 participants across all ages.

Continuing with the tradition ICSR proudly recognized and celebrated the graduating seniors amongst our community. A bittersweet moment as these Seniors began their ICSR journey when they were merely 3-4 years old.

Commendable efforts by the entire ICSR team- preparation for which began early February, the true dedication of our Choreographers- most of them High School students juggling multiple things and the enthusiastic volunteers from the community & the generous sponsors ensured that the evening was a seamless one.



Live Concert with Priyanka Barve

ICSR in association with Arts from India successfully conducted an international quality exhilarating musical concert, Priyanka Barve, Live in Concert, on June 29, 2025 at the historic Tarrytown Music Hall.

Over 325 concert goers were treated to a spectacular performance by Priyanka Barve and her live band at this memorable venue listed in the National Registry of Historic Places.

This attendance was among the highest on Priyanka's US tour! The theme was "Celebrating Legendary Divas" which included renderings from timeless classics sung by Begum Akhtar, Suraiyya, Lata Mangeshkar, Asha Bhonsle and many more. There were thumris, ghazals, bandish, geet and many other forms. A highlight were the cherished Marathi songs that the audience requested as "farmaish".

The jugalbandis by the musicians, particularly the keyboard and percussion were extraordinary!

The snacks sold at the concessions were a super hit, most were sold out before intermission!

Kudos to the entire team of ICSR volunteers for pulling off an event of such magnitude.



Senior Trip

On June 18th, the Indian Cultural and Social Resources (ICSR) committee organized a delightful day trip for senior citizens to the Akshardham temple in Windsor, New Jersey. Due to overwhelming interest, an additional bus was arranged, with a total of 107 participants joining the trip. The group assembled in Nanuet before heading to the temple.

The guided tours at Akshardham offered the seniors a chance to marvel at the temple's stunning architecture and learn about its rich history. A wholesome lunch was provided.

On the return journey, the group enjoyed a refreshing stop at Sayen House and Gardens, adding an extra touch of nature and relaxation to the day.

The bus rides were filled with singing and laughter, making the entire trip enjoyable from start to finish. The event was a huge success, filled with joy, camaraderie, and memorable experiences.

ICSR thanks all participants for making this day special and looks forward to organizing more such delightful trips in the future.



India Day Parade

The India Day Parade, on Saturday, August 16th, 2025, was a vibrant celebration of Indian culture in New City, NY. The event kicked off with a parade assembling at 10:30 AM at the New City Library, proceeding to the Rockland County Courthouse grounds for flag hoisting and festivities. Dhol and DJ's patriotic music elevated the enthusiasm and patriotic spirit as ICSR President Alka Shah, Committee members and Grand Marshal County Executive Ed Day led the procession. Attendees enjoyed meet and greet with county's elected officials, live singing, cultural show, food for sale, clothing and accessories from various vendors, and more, all with free entry. With participation from organizations like Jeevan Jyoti, HSS, AFI, Rockland County Tourism, AWAKE, HAPAC, and Center for Safety & Change, the event was a testament to community spirit and cultural richness. Overall, it was a fun-filled day celebrating Indian heritage with the community.



My Friend Ganesha

Lord Ganesha was crafted by children from the community, guided by our dedicated mentors. The venue was beautifully decorated, creating an atmosphere brimming with peace and positivity.

The puja rituals began at 10:15 am, as all members gathered to venerate the idol of Lord Ganesha. Participants offered their prayers with heartfelt devotion, believing that the Lord would remove obstacles and bring blessings into their lives. The rituals included Aartis, Bhajans, and the distribution of Prasad.

The immersion of Lord Ganesha was celebrated at the Congers Lake front, accompanied by the vibrant beats of Dhol and Tasha. A Community Bhoj followed, featuring a variety of traditional foods and beverages. Additionally, a cultural program was held, showcasing a fancy dress competition and a speech contest for young participants.

The celebration aimed to bring joy, contentment, positivity, entertainment, and refreshment to the community, fostering a sense of unity and happiness. It was truly a family event that underscored the blessings and presence of Lord Ganesha in our lives.

May Lord Ganesha continue to enlighten and bless the ICSR community!



Annual AAPI Health Fair

The 18th Annual AAPI Health Fair was truly an inspiring event, where dedicated doctors generously gave their time and expertise to serve the community. Doctors: Gomathi Adhiyaman, Paryush Lakhtaria, Arup Bhadra, Perminder Grewal, Rakesh & Kamini Shreedhar, Bangalore Shridhara, Sankaran & Usha Krishnan, Sunandan Pandya, and Sri Bonam all came together to provide free services including health screenings, dental checkups, mental health assessments, yoga and wellness guidance, and flu vaccines. Their compassion and commitment were beautifully complemented by the youth volunteers, who worked tirelessly to help set up, manage registrations, assist the doctors, and support participants throughout the day. Their enthusiasm and dedication added a wonderful spirit of teamwork, making the fair a shining example of kindness, service, and community health at its best.



Navratri

Navratri is a celebration that infuses our lives with vibrancy, faith, and a collective spirit of devotion. This year's ICSR Navratri celebration took place on September 27th at Fieldstone Middle School. The event began with prayers and the chanting of Garba in chorus in front of the idol of Goddess Navdurga. The venue was filled with a large crowd dressed in traditional attire, elegantly groomed, and adorned in vibrant-colored fabrics, adding to the event's visual appeal. Everyone was deeply synchronized with the beats of the music and the steps of Garba. The positive energy and enthusiasm for dancing to Garba folk songs made the entire evening exceptionally successful and memorable. Various rituals, such as Aarti and the distribution of prasad, were conducted with great devotion and fidelity. Highlights of the evening included decor and the authentic Gujarati cuisine.

Navratri is not merely a religious festival; it is a time for family gatherings, cultural performances, and a reaffirmation of traditional values.

"Yaa Devi Sarva Bhuteshu Shakti Roopena Sansthita. Namastasyei, Namastasyei, Namastasyei Namoh Namah!!"



Fall foliage

On Oct 11th, ICSR arranged a day trip "Fall Foliage" from Nanuet to John Boyd Thatcher State Park, Voorheesville NY !! On this beautiful early October Saturday, over 70 community members embarked upon a trip from Nanuet, in two luxury buses and enjoyed breakfast, tea/coffee, hike scenic trails, admired a waterfall, took a stroll to the overlook for some panoramic views and also took some stunning pictures with friends and family members in the backdrop of abundantly beautiful scenic fall colors.

Attendees also got to enjoy a delicious lunch served hot with tea and coffee under a private pavilion!! The return trip to back home was full of singing and joyous moments!!

This "first of its kind" ICSR trip turned out to be a memorable one for so many folks within our community. It was truly appreciated by all who could join, and they all hoped that we continued to arrange such fun trips in future as well.



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



*The Krishnan Family
Sankaran, Usha, Sheila & Amit*



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My favorite memories from India ~ Tarun Ravesanker

Some of my favorite memories from visiting India were spending time with my family. Every visit to India felt special and always chaotic (in a good way). From gathering around the dinner table to share homemade meals to listening to my grandparents' stories about their childhoods and the way life used to be. I clearly remember the laughter that fills the room, the smell of spices drifting from the kitchen, and the feeling of being surrounded by people who truly understood me. Whether it was late-night conversations, exploring the busy streets together, or simply sitting and watching a movie, reminded me of the deep love and connection that holds our family together. Visiting India is never just a trip for me, it was a chance to create memories that I will always cherish.





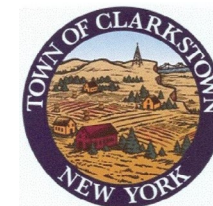
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Best memories of my visit to India

By: Reeva Damodar

One of the best memories of my visit to India is not only meeting my grandparents and getting the amazing home cooked meals that are just outstanding . But also going around the city, learning about what I did not have prior knowledge of. I also recall the welcoming and vibrant stores with people eagerly searching for the best clothing to wear . Of course I also had time to meet close relatives and friends. With all the gifting and happiness I feel like every time I go to India not only am I growing but so is India developing.

When I go to the temples in India. I feel the authenticity of our culture, the priests calling out the shlokas . The way that the temples are decorated with festive lights and so much more. The long lines for an up close darshan of the gods can vary by the temple or the days. When it comes time for big festive holidays, I can't wait to go to the temple because the temples are where everyone is. It makes my day to see so many people smiling. Also the prashads are the best on festive days. But there are also different prashads at different temples.

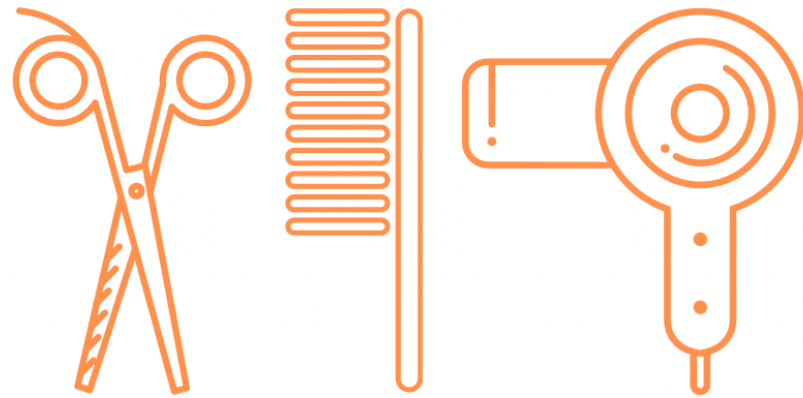
Another thing that I love to do in India is shopping. I always go shopping there because they always have the best Indian clothes that look colorful and grand. I get the pattu pavadais (a traditional South Indian outfit) and other ethnic dresses. I also get exposed to the language that is native to the area. I also got used to the slang that they use. Another thing that I got used to is the amount of people shopping at shops whether it is day or night.

These are some of the best memories I have of India and these are also some of the reasons why I always love to go to India. To see how much India has evolved.





SALON



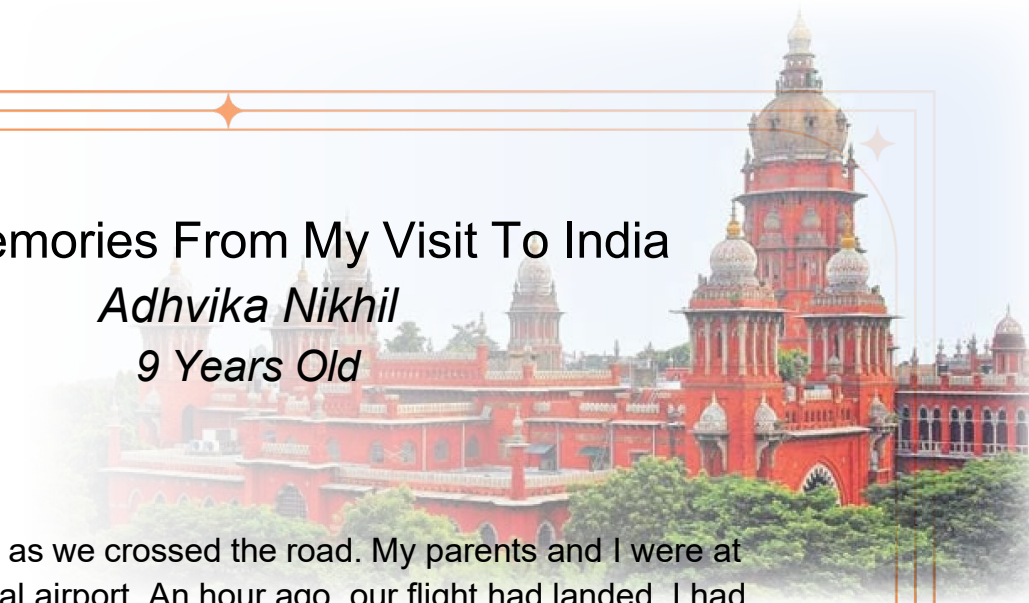
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Best Memories From My Visit To India *Adhvika Nikhil* 9 Years Old



Beep! A car honked as we crossed the road. My parents and I were at Chennai International airport. An hour ago, our flight had landed. I had come from America to India.

We had claimed our baggage and went outside to meet my grandparents who had come to pick us up to go to their house. We all hugged and talked until our ride arrived. We all clambered into the car. I got into the front seat with my grandpa. The rest of the family sat in the back.

When we arrived, we went in and got some Idilis. They were piping hot, served with sambar. Yum! After that we went to bed, but I could not fall asleep because of jetlag. Since I was already awake, I decided to do something useful. I had a quick snack, then started unpacking. At about 1am in the morning I got sleepy so I went to bed.

When I woke up I had a quick breakfast of milk & fresh jackfruit from our garden. While I was gulping down my food, I asked what the plans for the day were and my mom said that we were going to Marina Beach! My favorite place ever! My scream of joy woke everyone else up!

Then we all started getting ready to go. My grandma made lunch for when we all got back. Once we were all ready, we set out. It was an hour drive, so we went by car. Finally we were there! We scrambled out and took off our sandals as we sank our feet into the sand. I took a deep breath of the salty air and smiled. I was so happy! We found a good spot and put our things down, the rest of my family sat down, but I rushed into the waves. The cool water felt good against my legs and I stood there until my family called me. I played in the sand for a while with my dad then something caught my eye.

A balloon shooting stand! I asked my parents if I could try it and they said yes! So I went over, paid, aimed and fired. It popped the balloon and I had 4 more shots. 2 darts did not pop any balloons but the rest did! Now it was time to go. So we packed up and left but before we climbed into the car I saw an ice cream truck so we got ice cream and left. The ice cream was delicious! That was the best trip ever and I will never forget this trip or this memory that made my trip so special!

THE END.

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The Light of Karthika: Keeping the Diya Burning in a Suburban Town
~ Yasaswini Polamraju

People are influenced by the culture of where they live. As a result, people are said to have changed after moving to a certain place, be it positively or negatively. Although I am from India, I live in the US, so I inevitably pick things up from my surroundings and lose customs from my roots, but this doesn't have to be the case. Although we can't make our living situation exactly like in India, we can certainly retain the important things from our culture. For instance, celebrating festivals by going to the temple and enjoying traditional food made with lots of love and care during times of festivities.

The holiday I care about the most, the one that always brings me back to my culture to the fullest extent, is Deepavali. I hold this festival deep in my heart due to it not only being an anchor to my Indian roots, but also because I was born the day after Diwali. My parents have called me the light of their life, and also use the analogy of lighting a bright diya in a dark Karthika Masa night.

Although sometimes celebrating festivals here may lack fireworks or a big bonfire, we get the same feeling when we say "Happy Diwali," while giving out sweets to friends and family when they visit. Keeping our tradition alive doesn't have to mean elaborate festivals with hundreds of varieties of food; all that matters is that the festival we are celebrating connects us back to our roots, the same celebration our predecessors have been observing for ages and ages.

To me, celebrating Diwali consists of waking up early, wearing new clothes, and doing pooja to the relatively small altar of the deities. During this time, my mom will make prasad(am) like bajjis (fritters), along with usual pulihora/puliyogre (lemon rice), daddojanam (curd rice), and pongal/kheer. My dad will lead the pooja by decorating the gods and chanting stotrams. Afterwards, we sing some songs/bhajans, enjoy the treats made, and get ready to go to the temple. There, we see many people with the same devotion, coming to see the deities, giving fruits and flowers, or whatever they can. People come to light lamps with oil or ghee, and pray for the well-being of their family and friends. These may not be elaborate celebrations, but it's the small things that count.

There are many reasons people celebrate Deepavali, such as Sri Rama returning to Ayodhya with his wife Seeta, his brother Lakshmana, and the vanaras after defeating Ravana. Krishna and his wife Satyabhama defeated the demon Narakasura. Diwali celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness, and knowledge over ignorance. People light the pitch-dark, Amavasya or no moon, night of the month Kartika with diyas in their pooja space and outside their house to welcome the visiting Lakshmi Devi, with the wish for an abundance of wealth, prosperity, and health.

Celebrating this one holiday has many connections to our roots, even if we are 8000 miles away. If we celebrate as many holidays as we can, to the best of our abilities, it will be enough to connect with our traditions and family.





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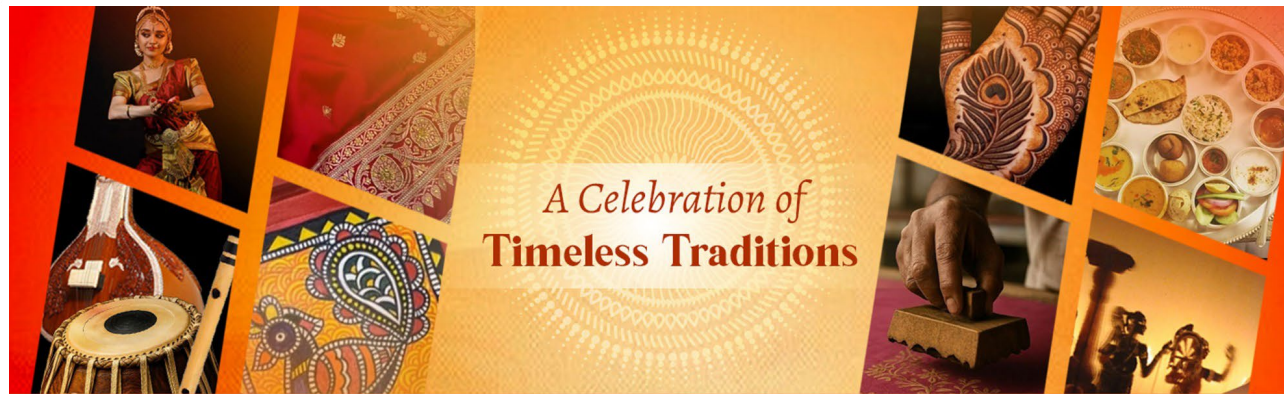
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The Kalyanam That Came Home ~ Tejaswini Polamraju

I am Indian. That is not much of a surprise. I was born in India and grew up here, but regardless of all that I have seen or experienced, I never forget where I came from. I have visited my home country numerous times, and each time, I have brought back with me a handful of priceless memories. One instance that I remember vividly was in August of 2024, when we were at my maternal grandfather's house; we were already enjoying the well-needed vacation, but another event was on our mind: Sita-Ram Kalyanam. Our grandfather had been planning this for a long time, but wanted to celebrate it with us. I was enthralled by the notion of having such a magnificent event take place at our own house with almost everyone we know attending. We started the preparations a week beforehand to ensure we would have enough time to make any necessary adjustments. We went to the weavers and bought some saris for the deities, and went shopping for pearls, flowers, and other items. Afterwards, my sister and I assisted in cleaning the house, decorating the tables, and idols. We also took responsibility for making the invitation cards and invited the guests ourselves. The day of the celebration, we woke up pretty early, got dressed, and helped welcome the priests and guests. We arranged all items for the pooja on the mandap and watched the procession with a shared sense of awe. We then sang a few songs and watched the last ritual. My sister and I placed all the banana leaves for the feast and helped everyone get situated. We helped serve the food before we ourselves sat down, and we loved all the delicious dishes. Later, we got ready to distribute gifts to the attendees. The gifts were the most tedious part, but it was fun nonetheless. The event was coming to an end, and we decided to clean up. Afterwards, we relaxed and recollected everything that had happened. It was a great, new experience that my sister and I were glad to have gotten; it was the tangible realization that these traditions, and the shared effort of making them happen in our grandfather's home, are the most solid part of who we are, and what we will always carry back with us.





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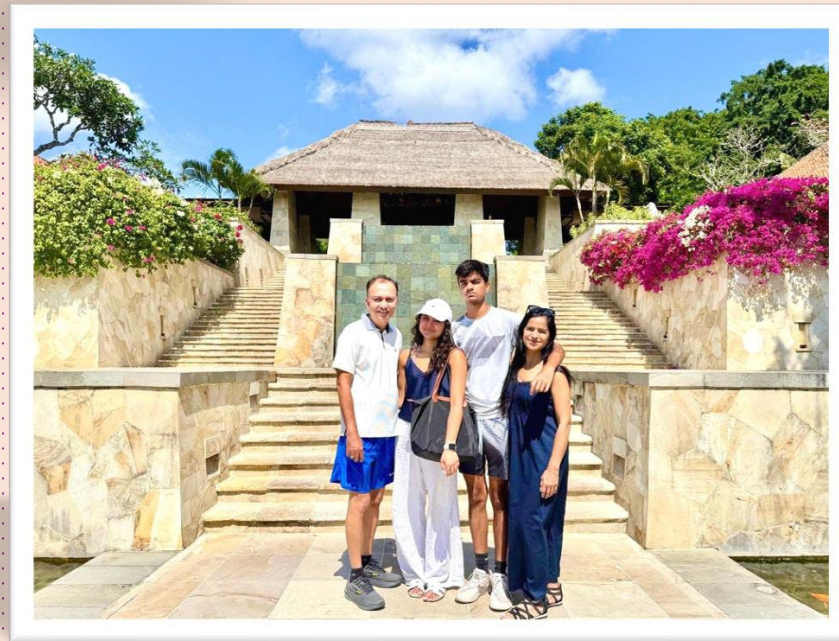


My Friend Ganesha

Happy Diwali from our home



To yours



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*Happy
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*Wishing you a Diwali filled with
sweet moments and memories to cherish forever.
May the glow of joy and prosperity fill
your life with happiness and success.*



Best wishes from:

Alka, Bharat, Dr. Aditi & Dr. Devki Kothari

Dear ICSR Family

May the beauty
and festivity of
Diwali fill your
home with
happiness and joy.

Happy
Deepavali



Drs. Kamini & Rakesh Shreedhar
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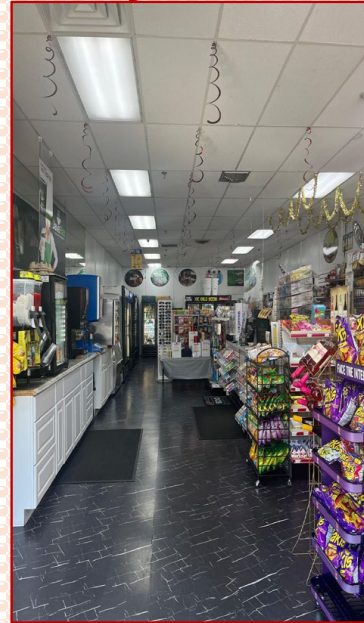
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Ria Sah * Aanya Sah * Meenakshi Bishnoi * Sunil Sah

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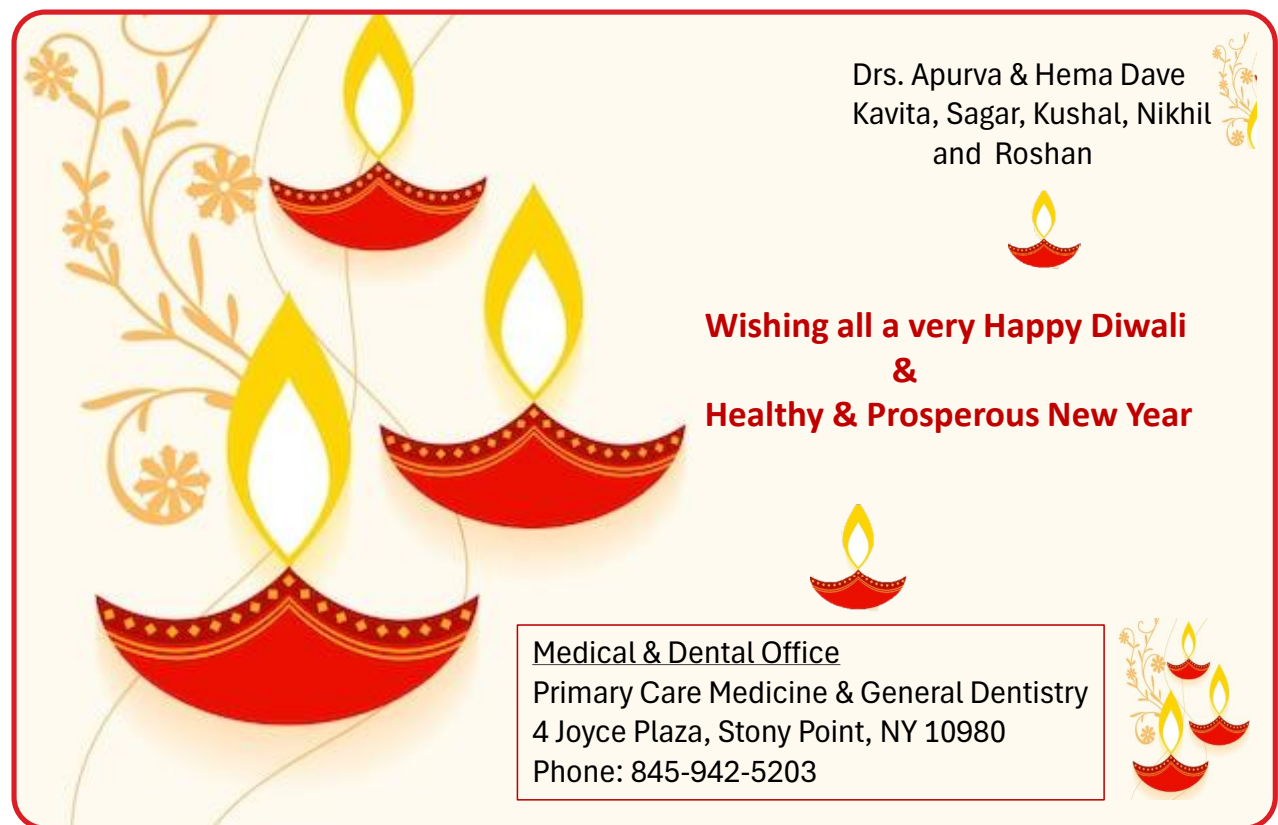
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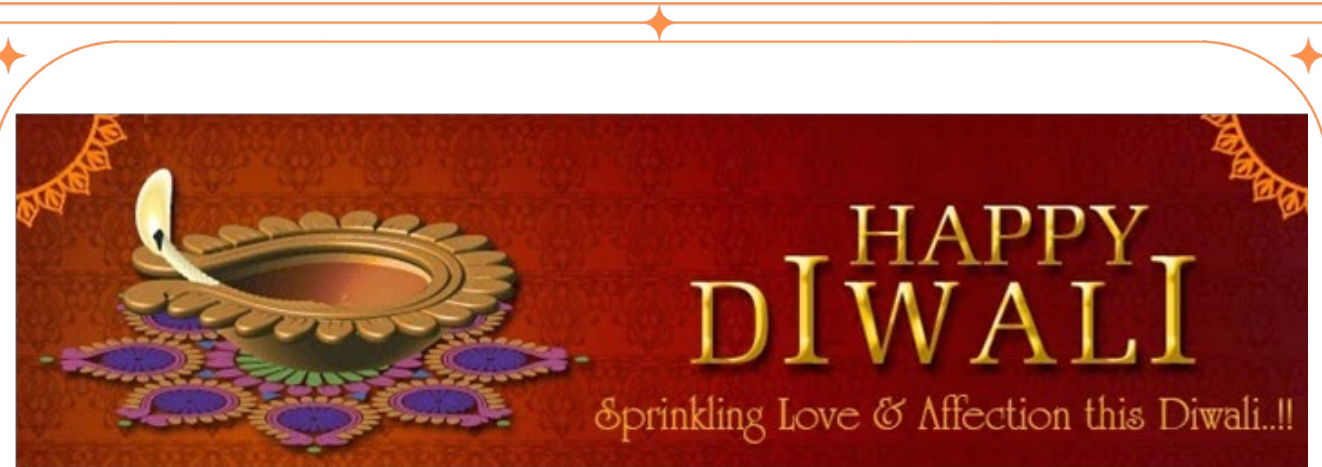




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Diwali





India Day Parade



Family Night



Youth Meet

Fall Foliage Trip

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The Helderberg Escarpment



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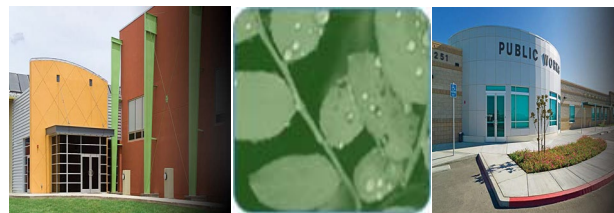
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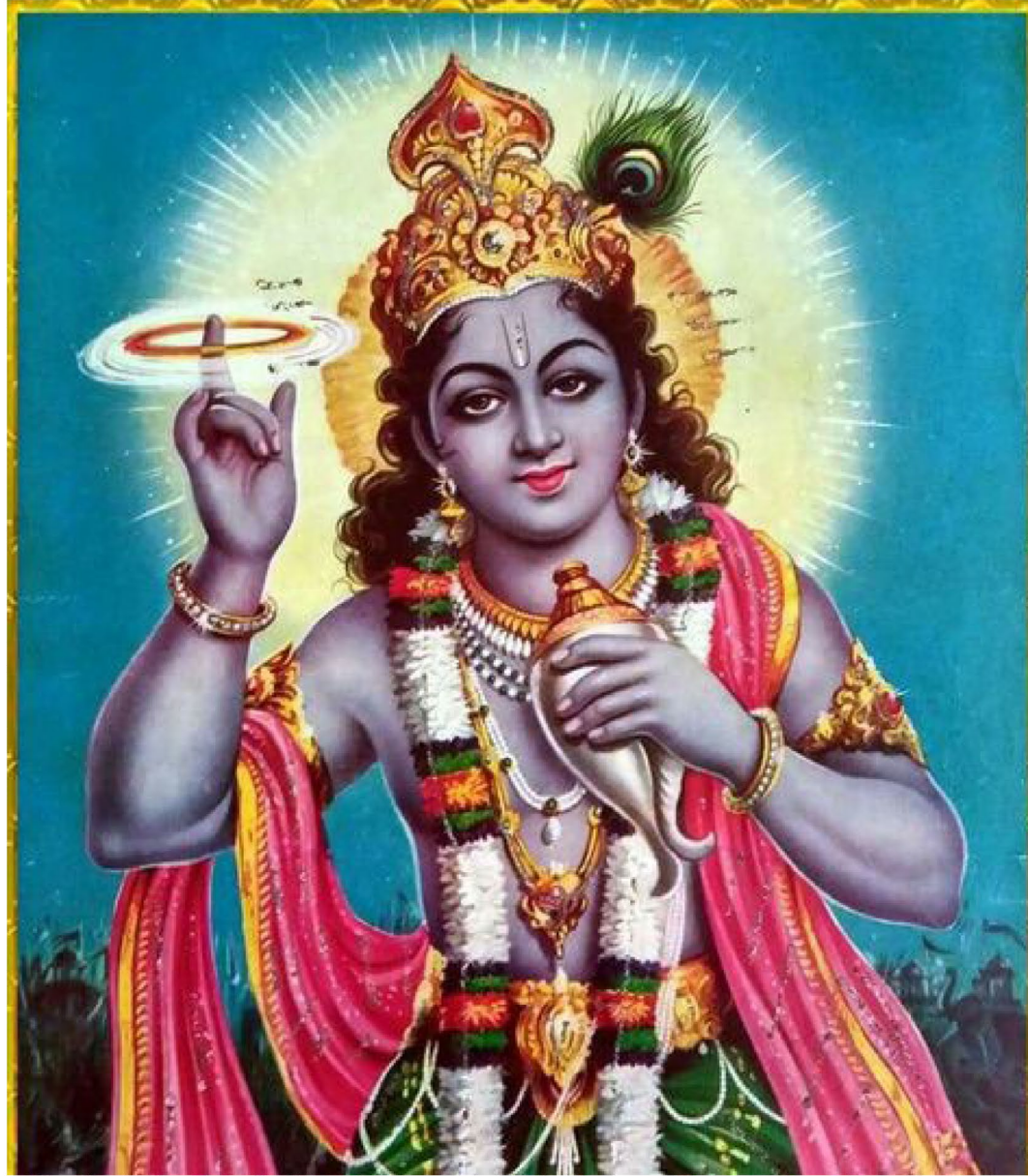
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Suresh	Ramaswamy	New City	New York
Suresh and Mamta	Arya	New City	New York
Suresh and Shoba	Bekal	West Nyack	New York
Suresh and Tina	Iyer	New City	New York
Suryakant and Chandrika	Patel	Spring Valley	New York
Swarnva & Devleena	Banerjee/Chakraborty	Nanuet	New York
Sweety and Mihir/Mike	Pakai	Nanuet	New York
Teju & Andrew	Bharati /Graap	West Nyack	New York
Tobin & Betsy	Chacko/Tobin	Nanuet	New York
Umang and Nipa	Vasa	Scarsdale	New York
Umesh and Koshal	Patel	Mahwah	New Jersey
Vaibhavi Vijay	Pradhan	Scottsdale	Connecticut
Vamsi & Swapna	Garbham/Allena	Mahwah	New Jersey
Varghese & Annam	Olahannan	Congers	New York
Varsha and Santosh	Pundukare	Nanuet	New York
Vasant Kumar and Nivedita	Purohit	New Hempstead	New York
Vasavi and Devaki	Kotha/Simhachalam	White Plains	New York
Vasu and Amala	Chirumamilla	new city	New York
Vasudevan and Jayanthi	Raghunath	Bardonia	New York
Veena Panduranga/Herambh	Tripathi	Nanuet	New York
Venkateswara & Padma	Rao	Park Ridge	New Jersey
Vignesh Prasad & Iswarya	Krishnamoorthy/Jagadesan	Woodcliff Lake	New Jersey
Vijay	Parekh	Northvale	New Jersey

Vikas and Samita	Varma	Mahwah	New Jersey
Vikram & Smitha	Lanka	Mahwah	New Jersey
Vikram and Alka	Shah	West Nyack	New York
Vinod	Ravikumar	New York	New York
Vinod and Anitha	Damodaran/Damodar	Rutherford	New Jersey
Vinod and Binita	Shah	Spring Valley	New York
Vinod and Minaxi	Parikh	Nanuet	New York
Vinod and Rasila	Lala	Tappan	New York
Vinod and Shilpa	Yaragudri	Orangeburg	New York
Vipul and Sapna	Shah	Montebello	New York
Vipul and Seema	Patel	New City	New York
Vivekanand and Anusha	Nadimpalli /Penmetza	Mahwah	New Jersey
Yachana /Mohith	Mittal	New City	New York
Yudh and Sneh	Jain	New City	New York

Best Wishes for a Happy Diwali



**Dr. Bangalore and Smriti Sridhara
Sudeepta, Sumukh & Suchita**



Happy Diwali & A Happy New Year
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FROM THE PATEL FAMILY
SANJEEV- KASHMIRA
NIRALI & KISHAN

Happy Diwali
& Best Wishes for
A healthy & prosperous New Year!

Alka & Dr. Vikram Shah
Avni & Dr. Dev Shah
Dr. Divya & Anuj Shah
Liya, Ayaan & Mira Shah



Board Certified in Internal Medicine
Medical Office located at
7 South Madison Avenue
Spring Valley, NY 10977
Telephone : 845-352-4205

Celebrate Diwali
with a heart full
of love and a spirit
of giving

HAPPY
Diwali
FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Best wishes
Deo Narine Persaud

 **Rockland
County**
TOURISM