



# **FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS – FIA**

The Largest Non-Profit Grassroot Umbrella Organization in the East-Coast of the USA

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2023**

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## Executive Committee 2023



**Kenny Desai**  
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**Anil Bansal**  
Imm. Past President

## CGI-New York, FIA Organize Meet and Greet with India Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal



The Consulate General of India organized a meet and greet with the esteemed Indian Minister for Commerce Piyush Goyal on the eve of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2023 where dignitaries like Mayor Sam Joshi, Mayor Hemant Mahatre, and Chairman Jassi Singh were in attendance. Jassi Singh felicitated the Minister for the achievements of Prime Minister Modi and the Veer Baal Divas was honored for Guru Gobind Singh ji's sons. The evening kicked off seamlessly with Minister Goyal's inspiring insights as he emphasized the Indian diaspora's critical role in bolstering India-US ties. He encouraged exploring the boundless business opportunities in India and expressed gratitude for the diaspora's contributions.

## FIA Delegation Attends 17th PBD Convention Held in India as Special Invitees



The FIA executive board members attended the prestigious Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) 2023 award ceremony-cum-convention in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. The 17th edition of PBD had the theme "Diaspora: Reliable Partners for India's Progress in Amrit Kaal." which recognizes community service champions from different countries and honored the FIA Board of Trustees for their outstanding contributions to community services.

## FIA, Indian-American Community Congratulate Anil Bansal on Being Named 'THE SOUTH ASIAN TIMES PERSON OF THE YEAR 2022'



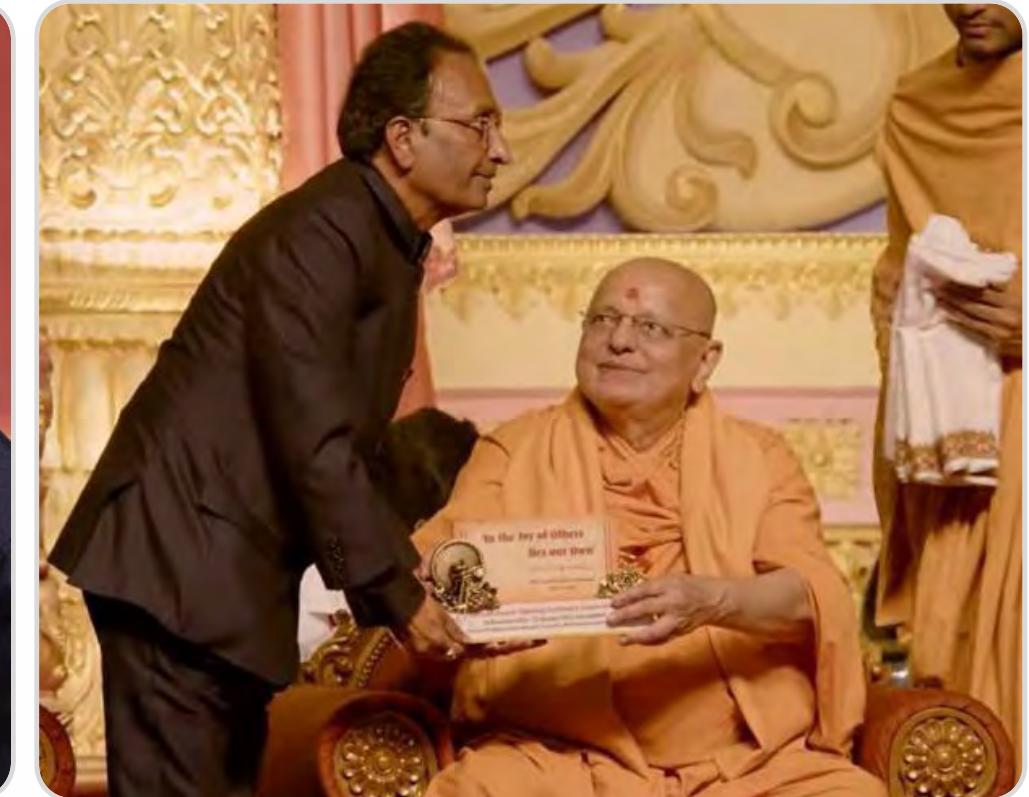
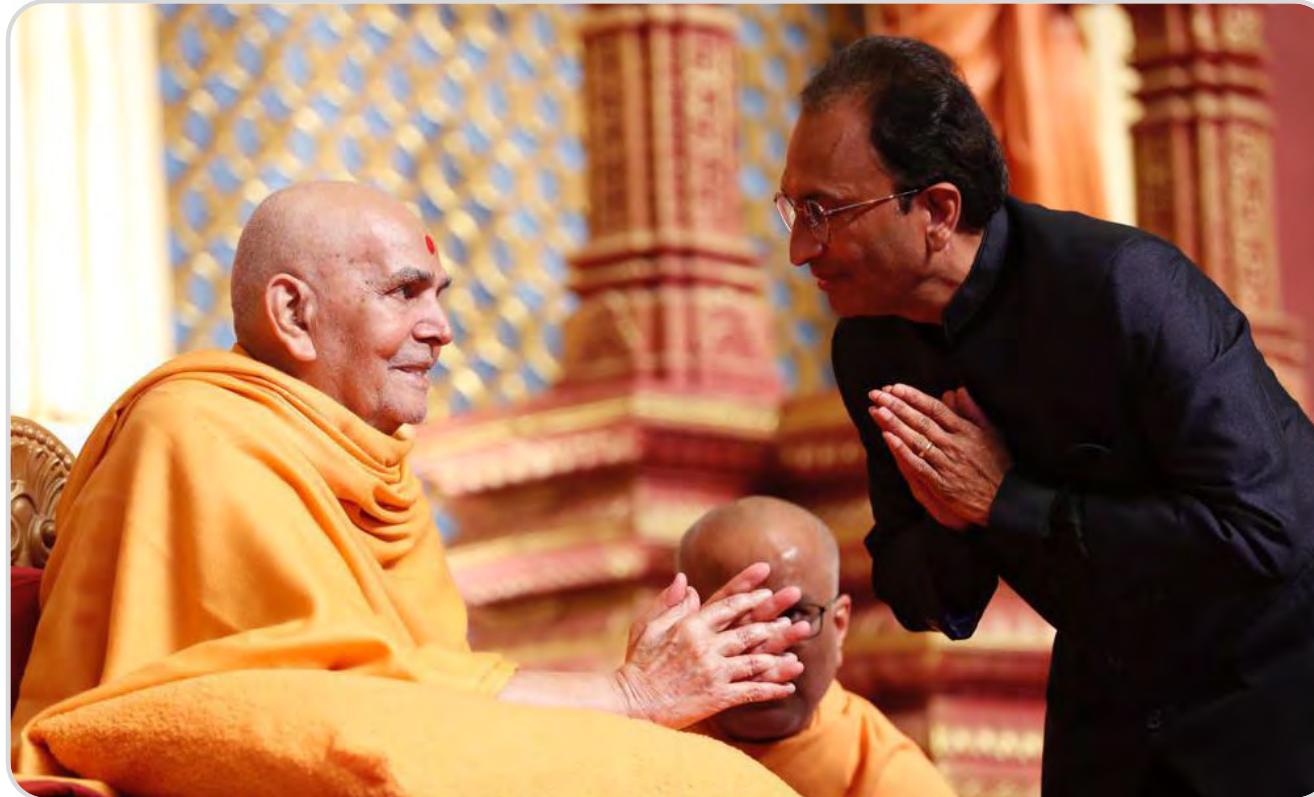
Anil Bansal, distinguished as the esteemed former president of FIA and esteemed chairman of the Indian American Arts Council, has been bestowed with the esteemed South Asian Times Person of the Year award. In a grand ceremony held on the 21st of January, 2023, at the Indian Consulate in New York, Mr. Bansal was felicitated with utmost admiration. CG Randhir Jaiswal, radiating sheer delight, graciously acknowledged and celebrated Mr. Bansal's remarkable contributions and unwavering dedication to the community.

## JaipurFoot USA, FIA Organize Multi City Free Artificial Limb Fitment Camps in India



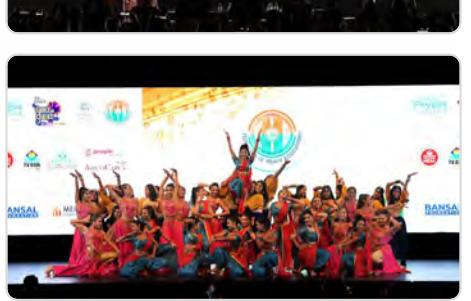
In celebration of India's 75 years of independence, FIA, in collaboration with Jaipur Foot USA, orchestrated two remarkable Artificial Limb Fitment camps in Hyderabad and Tirupati, India on January 11 and 13, 2023. These camps were endorsed by the esteemed Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ramdas Athawale, who inaugurated the events. With over 200 individuals having preregistered online and numerous more registering on-site, the camps witnessed an overwhelming response. Minister Athawale expressed his deep admiration for the relentless endeavors of Jaipur Foot and FIA, recognizing their immense contribution in empowering the disabled community through the provision of over 1000 artificial limbs.

## FIA Honored at Pramukh Swami Maharaj Centenary Celebrations in India



The Federation of Indian Associations' President Kenny Desai attended the Pramukh Swami Maharaj Centenary Celebrations on January 7 in Ahmedabad, India to celebrate Pramukh Swami Maharaj's dedicated to commemorating the extraordinary life and remarkable contributions of Pramukh Swami Maharaj. Mr. Desai, in his address, acknowledged Pramukh Swami Maharaj's global impact in promoting spirituality upholding Hindu values across the globe through the establishment of magnificent temples. He lauded Pramukh Swami Maharaj's innate simplicity, his message of universal brotherhood, and his unwavering commitment to the preservation of the rich Indian culture.

## 39th Edition of FIA's 'Dance Pe Chance 2023'



FIA's annual dance competition, 'Dance Pe Chance,' took place on Feb 18th at the Patriots War Memorial Theatre in Trenton, NJ. Over 500 children from 22 dance academies across four states showcased their talent, discipline, and costumes in this 39th edition. The performances included a fusion of classical, folk, and contemporary dances, representing various cultures and traditions. The event distributed mementos, trophies, and prizes worth \$20,000, aiming to inspire creativity and foster teamwork among upcoming generations. All participants, managers, and choreographers received meals, certificates, a rehearsal, and a complimentary ticket, courtesy of FIA and its sponsors. FIA's vision is to connect the next generation of Americans of Indian origin with our culture and motherland.

## FIA Hosts Farewell Reception for Vijay Shankar Prasad Visa Counselor at Indian Consulate, New York



FIA bid farewell to Vijay Shankar Prasad, Visa Counsellor at the Consulate General of India in New York, lauding his exceptional service at Akbar Restaurant in Edison, NJ. Community leaders and the Indian American Diaspora gathered to recognize Prasad's dedication, notably issuing visas at the airport during the pandemic. The event highlighted FIA's enduring collaboration with the Indian Consulate in providing vital consular services across the East Coast. Prasad, instrumental in emergency visa services during the lockdown, received well-deserved accolades. The occasion celebrated his invaluable contributions and acknowledged the resilience of the entire NY Consulate team in facing unprecedented challenges.

## FIA and Consulate General of India NY Celebrate 5th Annual International Women's Day, Honoring Inspirational Women



On March 8th, the Federation of Indian Associations of NY NJ CT NE, in partnership with the Consulate General of India NY, hosted its 5th annual International Women's Day celebrations at the India House in New York City. Five exceptional women were honored for their outstanding contributions: Hon. Deputy Mayor Ms. Meera Joshi, Ms. Radha Subramanyam of CBS-TV Net Corp, Ms. Hina Patel, Dr. Padmini Murthy, and Grammy Award Winner Ms. Falu Shah. The FIA celebrates this momentous occasion to mark the social, economic, cultural, and political accomplishments of women, while simultaneously advocating for the ongoing efforts toward gender equality.

## GANĀ in Association with the Consulate General of India New York Celebrated Gujarat Maharashtra Day



On May 1, 2023, FIA, in collaboration with the Consulate General of India in New York, commemorated Gujarat Maharashtra Day at the Consulate premises. This special occasion celebrates the rich cultural heritage and contributions of Gujarat and Maharashtra, two prominent states in India. Renowned singer Himali Vyas graced the event with a beautiful folk song, delighting the audience, while the Shivay Dance Group, led by Rohan Virdi, enthralled everyone with a vibrant folk dance performance featuring Lavni and Raas Garba. The celebration, hosted by EMCEE Gayatri Joshi, aimed to foster cultural unity and appreciation.

## 100th Episode of MANN KI BAAT

Hon. Minister For External Affairs Of India S. Jaishankar Unveils The Theme For Fia's 41st India Day Parade:  
'Mission Life'



FIA organized a community event in collaboration with the Indian Embassy and the Indian Community to mark the 100th episode of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Mann Ki Baat" radio program. The event, held on April 29, 2023, at The Marigold in Somerset, New Jersey, featured the presence of Hon. External Affairs Minister of India, Shri S. Jaishankar. His well-received speech, covering various issues and his connection with Mann Ki Baat, resonated positively with the audience of over 600 from diverse Indian American communities. The occasion celebrated the milestone episode, reflecting the enduring impact of the prime minister's influential radio program.

## FIA Team Participates in the Embassy held Meet and Greet in DC



Nirmala Sitharaman, Indian Minister of Finance, along with Ambassador of India to the United States Taranjit Singh Sandhu, had a meet and greet with the Indian Diaspora in the US. FIA team members attended the meet and greet. They spoke about the growing Indo-US cooperation and the galloping Indian economy in Washington, DC.

## FIA Committee Members Welcomes the Honorable Prime Minister of India Mr. Narendra Modi, at the USA



FIA Committee Members extend a cordial welcome to Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the USA. Community volunteers presented a Tri-color Mala at Ved Mandir. FIA orchestrated impactful tributes, including a 250-foot banner over the Hudson River and a Times Square billboard featuring PM Modi and President Biden. The Empire State Building illuminated in Tricolor signifies collective joy. Ten buses from New York and New Jersey mobilized the Indian American community to attend in Washington DC. This meeting is pivotal for enhancing India-U.S. relations, fostering cooperation, and addressing global challenges.

The FIA Committee welcomes G. Kishan Reddy, Minister of Tourism,  
at the Consul General of India in New York



## Tri-Color Unfurled at Times Square, New York for the fifth annual Flag Hoisting

Flag  
Hoisting at  
Times Square



On India's 76th Independence Day, Times Square witnessed the fifth annual Flag Hoisting, symbolizing the enduring India-U.S. bonds and the proud heritage of the vibrant Indian Diaspora. Notable attendees included Santoor Maestro Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, Chef Vikas Khanna, and community leaders. This event represented India's freedom journey and global diaspora. Over 1000 attendees echoed patriotic chants amid an Odissi Dance performance, adding an elegant touch to the celebration.

## 41st India Day Parade Champions 'Mission Life' for Sustainability and Diaspora Celebration



For over five decades, the India Day Parade has been an August tradition held each August to commemorate India's Independence, uniting the Indian-American diaspora in celebration of their heritage and the enduring values of sanctity, unity, sovereignty, and diversity. The 41st edition, themed "Mission Life," gathered over 100 thousand attendees, transforming the streets into a vibrant display of color and culture. Led by Consul General of India Shri. Randhir Jaiswal, spiritual guru Sri Sri Ravishankar Ji, New York City Mayor Mr. Eric Adams, and Indian Film Industry Actresses Samantha Ruth Prabhu & Jacqueline Fernandez, the parade commenced from Madison & E 38th Street, signifying India's global movement for a sustainable lifestyle and a greener, healthier planet.

## FLOATS @ INDIA DAY PARADE, NYC



The India Day Parade was a dynamic celebration of Indian culture, featuring floats adorned with diverse symbols and traditions that paraded through the bustling streets of New York. It united people from various states, including Indo-Americans and Indian immigrants. Accompanied by captivating dance performances, the floats created a visual spectacle, portraying the rich tapestry of India's heritage. Through vibrant slogans, banners, and placards, the parade offered an immersive experience, capturing the audience's attention and embodying the essence of India, leaving a lasting impression on all attendees.

## BOOTHES @ INDIA DAY PARADE, NYC



The India Day Parade meticulously celebrates the rich flavors of Indian cuisine through more than 45 booths and bustling food courts exuding excitement and flavor. Attendees from across the USA, including corporate representatives from diverse industries such as banking, media, entertainment, and fashion, converge to showcase their exceptional products and services. In particular, this year's focus on promoting millet cultivation and consumption, as part of the Millet Year 2023 celebration, is evident in Indian milk-based booths.

## MARCHING GROUPS @ INDIA DAY PARADE, NYC



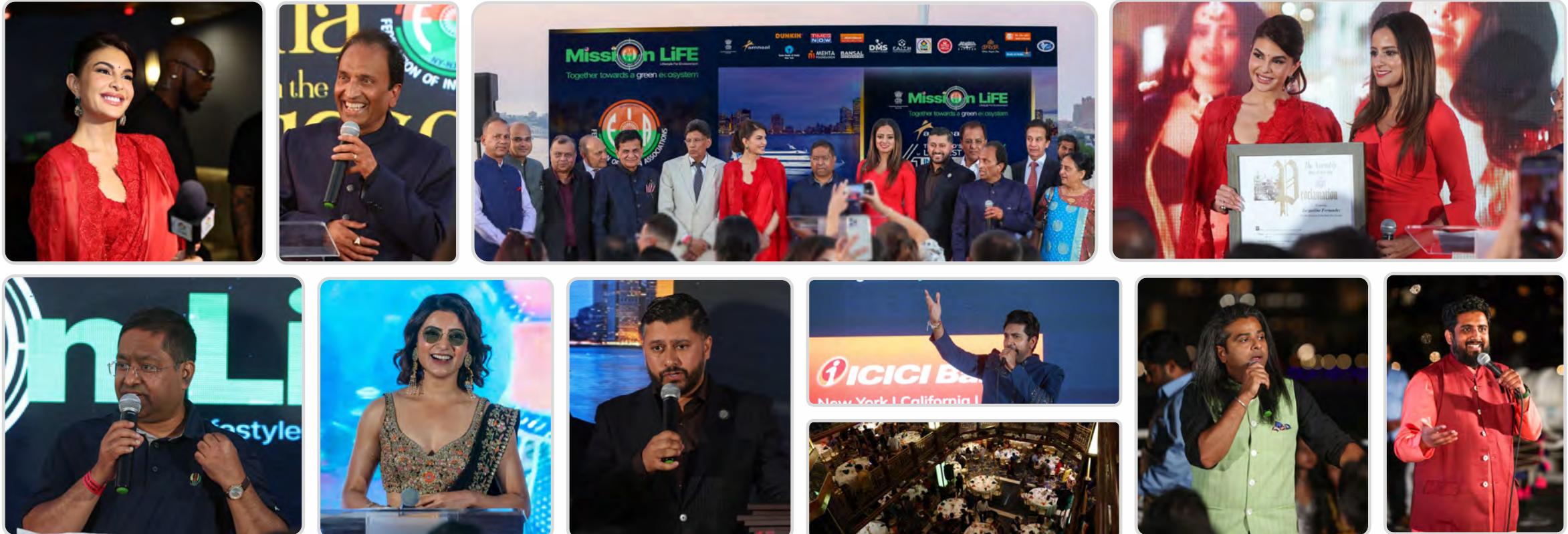
In a vibrant showcase of India's rich cultural diversity, over 50 groups of proud Indian-American citizens dance exuberantly to Indian tunes along Manhattan's Madison Avenue. Adorned in vibrant traditional attires, they celebrate our motherland's heritage. Carrying placards and banners, they commend the Indian government's historic commitment to sustainability. The streets, adorned in tricolor, resonate with patriotic chants of "Jai Hind" and "Vande Mataram."

## CULTURAL STAGE @ INDIA DAY PARADE, NYC



New York experienced a vibrant display of India's cultural richness through a series of captivating stage performances. Various Indian-American community groups adorned in bright traditional attire danced down Manhattan's Madison Avenue, carrying placards expressing appreciation for the Indian government's historic commitment to sustainability. The streets were adorned in the tricolor, resonating with patriotic chants of 'Vande Mataram' and 'Jai Hind.'

## GALA ON THE HUDSON



Following the World's Largest India Day Parade 2023 in NYC, the Grand Gala on the Hudson River aboard the Cornucopia Majesty unfolded as a memorable evening. The largest cruise on the East Coast hosted celebrities, stand-up comedy, Garba, energetic Bhangra and Dhol performances, and enchanting Indian idol singers. Attendees enjoyed DJs and a lavish full-course dinner as the Cornucopia set sail at 6:30 p.m., promising an elegant and entertaining night, returning at 10 p.m.

## FIA's Annual General Meeting Held Executive Team Announced for the year 2024



**Dr. Avinash Gupta**  
President



**Mr. Saurin Parikh**  
Exe. Vice President



**Ms. Smita Miki Patel**  
Vice President



**Mr. Deepak Goel**  
2nd Vice President



**Ms. Priti Patel**  
General Secretary



**Mr. Mahesh Dubal**  
Joint Secretary



**Mr. Sanjeev Singh**  
Treasurer



**Mr. Haresh Shah**  
Joint Treasurer



**Mr. Kenny Desai**  
Imm. Past President



On October 4, 2023, FIA conducted its Annual General Meeting at Akbar Restaurant in Edison, New Jersey, during which the Executive Team for the year 2024 was announced. The event was attended by FIA's board of trustees, Senior advisors Mr. H.R. Shah and Dr. Sudhir Parikh, and the executive team, along with representatives from various member associations.

## Curtain Raiser for the 10th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit by Consulate General India - New York in Collaboration with FIA and GANA



A pre-inaugural luncheon, hosted by the Consulate General of India - New York in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Associations - NY NJ CT NE and the Gujarati Association of North American (GANA), honored the Visiting Vibrant Gujarat Team. This served as a precursor to the 10th edition of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit in January 2024, a biennial event showcasing the state's industrial and business potential. Attended by nearly 300 entrepreneurs, community leaders, and members, the event highlighted FIA's role as a consistent community partner, having hosted five Vibrant Gujarat Delegations over the past decade.

## Empire State Building Illuminated for Diwali, Celebrating the Festival of Lights



On November 12, 2023, the Federation of Indian Associations celebrated Diwali, the Festival of Lights, by illuminating the iconic Empire State Building in vibrant orange hues reminiscent of the Diya. The esteemed guests, including renowned R&B singer Jay Sean, model Thara Natalie, and Grammy Award winner Falu Shah, inaugurated the auspicious illumination, marking a cherished tradition since 2018. The Empire State Building's radiant orange glow served as a beacon of joy and unity, symbolizing the spirit of Diwali in the heart of New York City.

Federation of Indian Associations FIA NY-NJ-CT-NE honored with Community Outreach Award by NYPD Indian Officers Society on November 16th



## Farewell Reception for Consul General Randhir Kumar Jaiswal



The esteemed Consul General of India in New York, Randhir Kumar Jaiswal, bid farewell as he assumes the role of MEA spokesperson. The Federation of Indian Associations NY-NJ-CT-NE organized a grand reception at The Moghul Restaurant's banquet hall in Edison, New Jersey, on November 20th. Distinguished guests gathered to celebrate Mr. Jaiswal's extraordinary leadership. The event highlighted his impactful tenure with memorable speeches and music, concluding with a celebration of his remarkable legacy. The Indian-American community expresses gratitude for his dedication and outstanding success in fostering strong ties, eagerly anticipating his contributions in his new role.

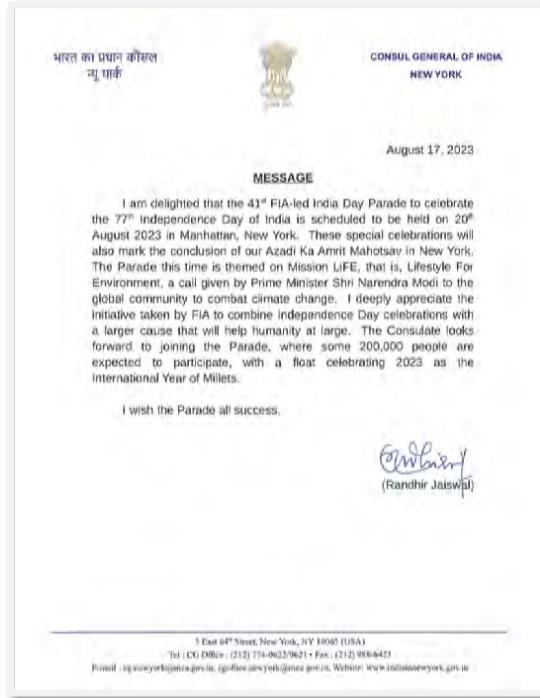
# Indian American Community along with the Federation of Indian Associations NY-NJ-CT-NE (FIA) held a commemorative celebration to mark the historic announcement of Garba's Inclusion in UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage List



The Federation of Indian Associations NY-NJ-CT-NE proudly hosted a momentous event on December 7th, 2023, at Times Square, New York, celebrating UNESCO's recent approval of Garba's inclusion in its Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. This recognition marked a significant milestone for India and Gujarat's popular folk dance form. The Federation extended an open invitation to the entire Indian American community to join in this historic celebration at Times Square, NYC, providing free transportation facilities to and from New Jersey to ensure widespread participation.

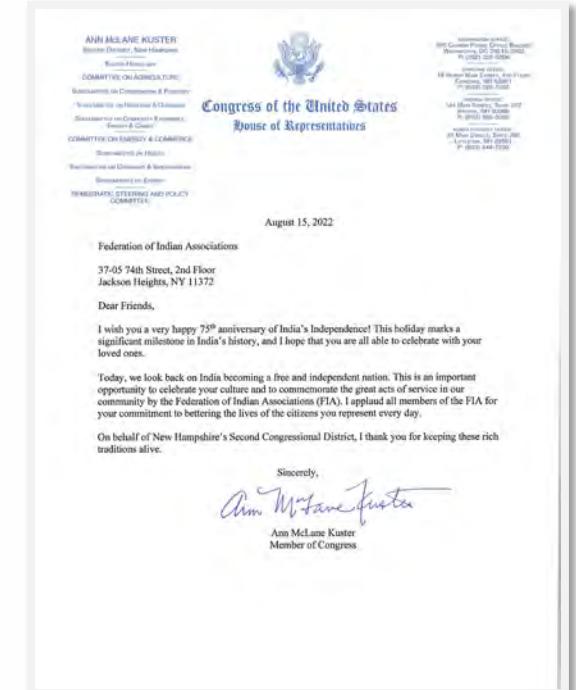
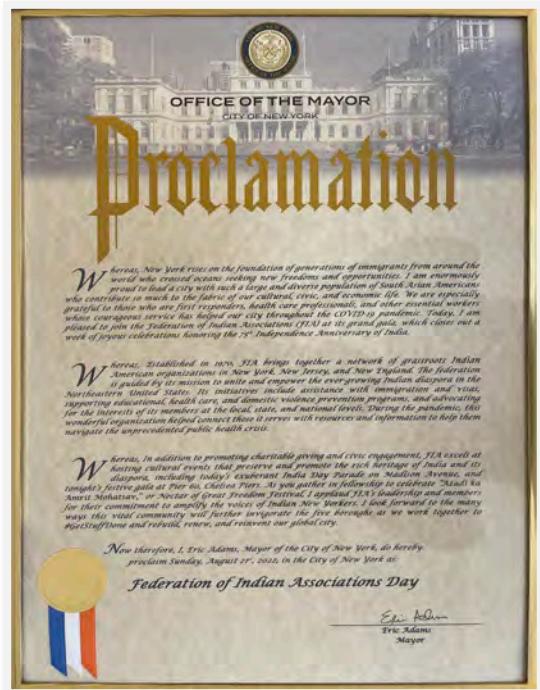


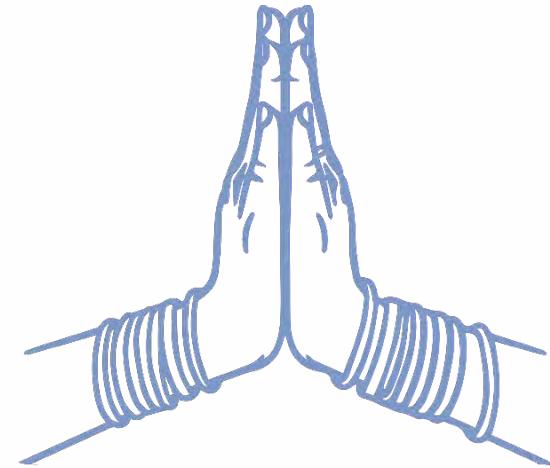
# Recognitions & Proclamations





# Recognitions & Proclamations





**Your support helps us serve the community to  
improve our community and our society.**

**God Bless America  
Jai Hind!**

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