

Padma Shri award winner is felicitated

"I am overwhelmed by the honor bestowed by the government and people of 'the motherland'," Dr. Parikh said following the speeches delivered by colleagues. "It meant that I have to constantly work to prove myself worthy of it. I recognize the responsibility of living up to this honor by reinforcing my efforts to further U.S.-India relations, and making greater efforts at community service on both sides of the Atlantic."

A patron of several philanthropic organizations, Dr. Parikh has contributed over \$2 million for various causes in India and the United States. He was in the group that accompanied President Bill Clinton on his visit to Gujarat after the earthquake in 2001.

On March 8, the Jackson Heights Merchants Association and the Lions Club of New York, honored Dr. Parikh at Delhi Palace restaurant in Jackson Heights. More than 100 merchants and other dignitaries attended the event, among them New York City Council member Daniel Dromm, who helped launch a new Lions Club of Jackson Heights at the same meeting. The event was organized by among others Mohinder Verma, president of the newly launched Lions Club of Jackson Heights, Kanu Chauhan of Rajsun Entertainment, and Sunil Patel of Alankar Jewelers.

On March 7, some 700 people attended a cultural event hosted by the Indian National Theater of U.S.A. and Indo American Cultural Association, Inc., based in Edison, N.J., which honored Dr. Parikh at Plainfield High School, for his achievements. Dr. Parikh is a trustee of the Indo American Cultural Association. Dr. Rambhai Patel, chairman of the organization gave the plaque to Dr. Parikh.

"He (Dr. Parikh) is a very humble and noble community person and has helped many organizations and we are proud that one of our Trustees has been recognized and honored by the Government of India," Nitin Vyas, cultural secretary, told Desi Talk. The organization, which was established in 1989, is the oldest non-profit in Edison, NJ, focused on bringing the best in family entertainment for the Indian community, says a press release. It organizes traditional Garba and folk dances; promotes Indian culture, literature, heritage and poetry; maintains and develops the interest of the present as well as future generations in Indian cultural heritage. It also hosts events dealing with political, social and senior citizen issues, helps the community network and provides a forum for a healthy exchange of ideas.

At the March 7 event, Gujarati play 'Kona dhitha ne tamara rahi gaya' was staged.



Mohammed Jaffer/Snaps India

Dr. Parikh addressing the meeting of Jackson Heights Merchants Association and Lions Club of New York where organizers also announced the newly-formed Lions Club of Jackson Heights. Below right, the IACA President Dr. Rambhai Patel reading from the plaque awarded to Dr. Parikh at the May 7 event in Edison, NJ. Bottom two photos Dr. Parikh with other guests at the AAPI-NJ meeting on March 5.



Mohammed Jaffer/Snaps India



An honor from fellow Allergists

On Feb. 26, Dr. Sudhir Parikh was honored by the American Association of Allergists and Immunologists from India (AAAI) when the group met for its annual meeting in New Orleans.

The group's president, Dr. Ashok R. Patel, of Pablo, Colo., told Desi Talk the award sought to recognize Parikh's leadership, his social and philanthropic services and his Padma Shri award. The event was attended by more than 120 physicians.

"He is making allergists proud. He has unique achievements so we made a special award," Patel said, adding, "He has provided leadership and is also instrumental in connecting Indians to American institutes."

The AAAII was founded in 1992 when a few allergists of Indian origin got together, Dr. Jayesh Kanuga, one of the former presidents of the organization (1997-1998), told Desi Talk. Today, he said, there are close to 500 practicing allergists of Indian origin around the

country who are members of the group.

The group holds its meetings twice a year in conjunction with one of two parent organizations – the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI), and the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (ACAAI).

The meeting in New Orleans was held as part of the AAAAI's convention, which was attended by more than 4,000 professionals, Kanuga said.

The Indian group held its own meeting to recognize Parikh and three other physicians: Dr. Stanley Szeffler of National Jewish Health in Denver, Colo.; Dr. Estelle Simon, professor of pediatrics at Child Health University in Manitoba, Canada; and Kanuga, who was recognized for helping develop a postgraduate course in asthma for India, where he said no such course was available despite rising problems with pollution and occupational hazards.

– BY A STAFF WRITER