



Dr. Sudhir Parikh with Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mr. Venkaiah Naidu.



Dr. Sudhir Parikh discussing healthcare initiative with Chief Minister of Gujarat Mrs. Anandi Ben Patel.



Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh listens to Dr. Sudhir Parikh, FIA President, on the tsunami relief efforts.



Dr. Parikh listens to tsunami victims near Chennai



Dr. Sudhir Parikh Receives Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Vishwa Pratibha Award.



Dr. Sudhir Parikh at Global Gujarati Award Gala in Toronto Canada.



Dr. Parikh with New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg.



Dr. Parikh, recipient of Pravasi Bharatiya Sanman being honored by New York Consul General Neelam Deo.



Dr. Parikh and Sudha Parikh with K R Narayanan, immediate past president of India, at a reception in New York City.



Former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao presents Dr. Parikh with the National Excellence Award at the 6th annual meet of the Indian American Friendship Council (IAFC) at Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. in June 2002.



Indian-American delegates attend a Republican Convention, 2004 at the Madison Square Garden, in New York on Sept. 2004. (L-R) Dr. Akshay Desai, Dr. Sampat Shivangi, Dr. Sudhir Parikh and Sambu Banik.



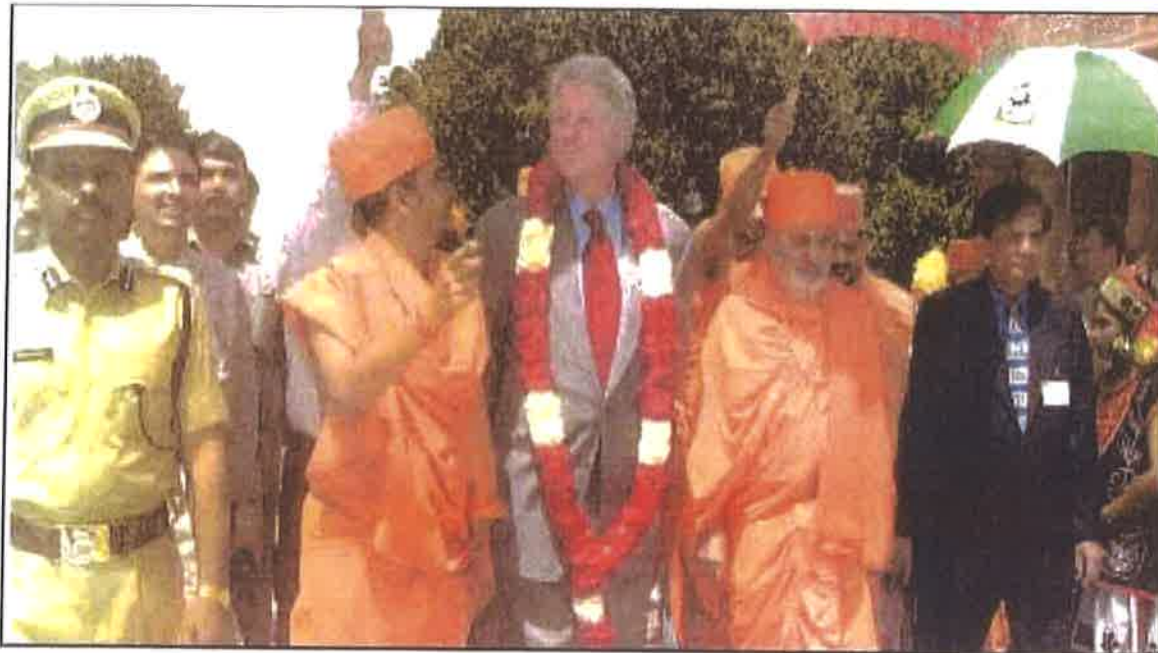
Indian's Ambassador to United States Ranendra Sen, speaking to Indian American leaders in the first private reception after assuming office in Washington, D.C.



Dr. Parikh receiving former President Bill Clinton in Ahmedabad during the former President's second India trip in the wake of the Gujarat earthquake in 2001.



Dr. Sudhir Parikh (center) introducing Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton to an Indian-American audience in New York City in 2000.



Dr. Parikh with His Holiness Pramukhswamy of BAPS and former President Bill Clinton in India after the Gujarat Earthquake. Dr. Parikh was a delegate on both of the former President's trips to India and donated heavily to the cause.



Dr. Sudhir Parikh with Chief Minister Chauhan during the NRI Meet in Indore, India



At the India Day Parade in New York: Congressman Frank Pallone, the then-Ambassador Naresh Chandra, and Dr Parikh.



United States Senate Minority Leader, Senator Tom Daschle, strikes a pose with Dr. Parikh and other Indian American leaders.



Dr. Sudhir Parikh being honored by the Nargis Dutt Memorial foundation in 1989. Dr. Parikh contributed \$10,000 to its cancer foundation.



Karl Rove, special advisor to President George W. Bush, lighting the lamp at the Diwali celebrations in the White House on October 23, 2003. Dr. Parikh looks on.



Dr. Parikh with House Minority Leader and Congressman Richard Gephardt.



The Chairman Emeritus of the House International Relations committee, Congressman Benjamin Gilman, being welcomed by Dr. Parikh.



Congressman Bob Frank, a Republican from New Jersey, presents a special United States flag flown on Capitol Hill in honor of Dr. Parikh in November, 1998.





Dr. Sudhir Parikh receiving plaque of recognition for community service from Shahrukh Khan in New York City.



Dr. Parikh with Sunil Dutt.

Ahmedabad, Tuesday, January 26, 2010

7 Padmas bloom from Guj

1 Padma Vibhushan; 3 Padma Bhushans & 3 Padma Shris have gone to state

Team DNA, Ahmedabad

The 60th Republic Day has brought glory for the state as seven people from Gujarat have been chosen for the coveted Padma awards. Vaidara's Nobel prize winner Venky has got a Padma Vibhushan. Two top dancers from city Mallika Sarabhai, Komalini Lakhia and Indologist MA Dhaky have been awarded Padma Bhushans. Nuclear scientist Pt John, industrialist Karam Patel and NRI Dr Sudhir Parikh have got Padma Shri awards. "Isn't it wonderful that two women from (Ahmedabad) Gujarat, both in the field of traditional dance, have been chosen for Padma Vibhushan this year?" said an excited Kinnadiben on Tuesday evening. The news already spread had just trickled in



Mallika is a famous dancer, choreographer, publisher, activist, writer, actor and, lately dabbed into politics. She wears several hats comfortably but, when you ask her what she has been honoured for, she says, "For standing up for truth." It was double whammy for Mallika as she also received an invitation

Award goes to...

For the second consecutive year, the Bharat Ratna, the country's highest civilian honour, has not been awarded.

Of the 136 awardees, the bulk - 17 - are from the world of art and 24 from the sphere of literature and education.

to participate at the World Economic Forum at Davos. Happy that she has been recognized with a national award she says, "The Padma Vibhushan is very important for me as my father was honoured with the Padma Vibhushan and together with the Padma Vibhushan, she had, Vaidara Indologist MA Dhaky also

from the city is recovering from fracture. Pt John works at the city's Institute for Plasma Research (IPR) in the ambitious International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER). Kinnadiben is founder of Shree while Dr Parikh is a US based doctor and social worker.

"It is wonderful to be recognized but that doesn't mean we stop working," septuagenarian Lakhia who founded Kadamb Dance School said. "I am glad my efforts to pass on our heritage of traditional dance - and the correct values of dance - to the coming generations, have been acknowledged. Just moving your limbs is not dance," Kinnadiben and Mallika are among the 13 women who have been chosen for different Padma awards this year. ■ More on p.11, 13



દિવ્ય ભાસ્કર

બંધવું સેવું ગરબી સિસું ઝાલવર

ફર્મા પ્રજાસત્તાક દિવસ પર હાર્દિક શુભકામનાઓ

પુનમ ભાસ્કર મંગળવાર ૨૬ જાન્યુઆરી, ૨૦૧૦

વેંકી, કુમુદિની લાખિયા, મલ્લિકા, કરસનભાઈ પટેલને પદ્મ એવોર્ડ

આમિર, રેખા, સેઠવાગ, રહેમાન, શિલ્પકાર પ્રો. મધુસુદન ઢાકે, સેફ સલી ખાન, ડો. સુદીર પરીખને પદ્મ એવોર્ડ

ભાસ્કર નેટવર્ક . નવી રિલો

રાજ્યપતિને પ્રજાસત્તાક દિવસની પૂર્વ સંધ્યાએ જાહેર કરેલા પદ્મ એવોર્ડના કુપરવહીતા ધર્મજી મહાનુભાવી, કુમુદિની લાખિયા, મલ્લિકા સરભલાઈ, પ્રો. મધુસુદન ઢાકે, કરસનભાઈ પટેલ અને પ્રો. વી. આઈ. મનોન તથા નોબેલ વિજેતા ડૉ. વેંકટરમણને નવાજવામાં આવ્યા છે.



The Doctor With The Midas Touch

To say Dr. Sudhir Parikh has the healing touch would be only part of the story. This New Jersey-based allergy and immunology specialist is also an entrepreneur of international renown with what can only be described the Midas touch.

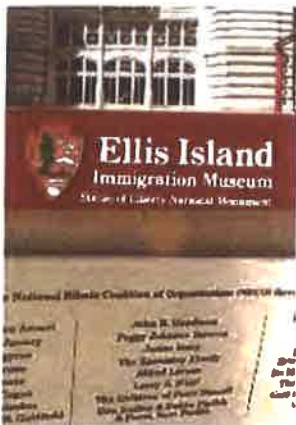
A 59-year old native of Gujarat, Dr. Parikh has risen dramatically from his modest roots to receiving the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman—the Government of India's highest civilian honor for non-resident Indians. His achievements have even been recorded in the U.S. Congressional record. These days, Dr. Parikh sees his success as a simple result of doing what he thought as right, noting that, "perhaps it has all been worth it."

Early Background

Born and raised in an extended joint Gujarati family, Dr. Parikh is the second of five children. Like all of his siblings, he graduated from medical college, but with the highest scores and a citation to boot.

After getting his Doctorate in Medicine, he left for England, where, after only six months of working in a small hospital, he found himself being recommended to work at one of the most prestigious medical institutions in the country: St. Bartholomew Hospital in London, the equivalent to Harvard medical school in the U.S. Commendably, of the 600-odd physicians at St. Bartholomew at that time, Dr. Parikh was one of only a handful of Asian doctors.

After getting his Doctorate in Medicine, he left for England, where, after only six months of working in a small hospital, he found himself being recommended to work at one of the most prestigious medical institutions in the country: St. Bartholomew Hospital in London, the equivalent to Harvard medical school in the U.S. Commendably, of the 600-odd physicians at St. Bartholomew at that time, Dr. Parikh was one of only a handful of Asian doctors.



The St. Bartholomew experience proved to be a blessing; two years later, when he came to the U.S., he was immediately accepted into 2nd-year residency at St. Luke's-Columbia Hospital in New York. A Fellowship in allergy, asthma, and immunology followed, which was itself a rare honor. As a super-specialty course, the program was not open to many applicants in those days. "Whether it was my luck, focus, or way of impressing people with hard work, I was always on the fast track," smiles Dr. Parikh effusively. "I came to the U.S. in 1975, and in four years, I was ready to practice." And that's just what he did, setting

up a private practice in Hoboken, New Jersey in 1980.

Empire Building

Dr. Parikh's practice flourished. For him, however, it was just a stepping-stone towards a larger goal. "Working for myself, I realized I would probably make a million dollars or so in a few years and retire," Dr. Parikh recalls. "After all, how much can a man work given a day and lifetime? The idea was to create wealth enough to be able to give back to community." So he hit upon the idea of acquiring well established practices from physicians who were about to retire.

It seemed an odd idea to many, but as he looks back on what made him choose that route, Dr. Parikh credits his "god-given gift of envisioning outcomes."

It was Dr. Sidney Smith's asthma & allergy practice in Highland Park, New Jersey that set the ball rolling. "Dr. Smith was a pioneer in the field of allergy and immunology in New Jersey," explains Dr. Parikh. "At that time, he had an established practice of over three decades. He had tremendous goodwill, was 75 years-old and about to retire."

Dr. Smith, an orthodox Jew, believed in the ambitious yet sincere and forthright Indian, and the first block in the creating of Dr. Parikh's empire was cemented. That was 1980. "I must say, it paid off," he laughs, looking back.

On a buying spree ever since, Dr. Parikh began acquiring flourishing, well-established practices from retiring physicians, without a penny of financing. He knew each of these practices would be leveraged by its own capacity to generate profits. Today, Dr. Parikh runs an empire of 20 practices, in 20 office buildings, with 150 staff members and 18 full-time allergists.

It's no dumb luck then that whatever Dr. Parikh touched turned to gold. "Touch wood, whatever I have ever taken up in my life has never failed," he reports. "On the contrary, whether it is my practice or private investments, they have only doubled."

Philanthropy

Over the years, Dr. Parikh has donated more than \$2 million to various charities and causes in India and the U.S. "Money has no value unless it is used to give away to the needy," has long been his firm belief and first took concrete shape when he set up the Parikh Foundation 15 years ago.

It's always been there in times of trouble to help out as well. When the killer earthquake struck Gujarat some years ago, the doctor was part of the high level delegation that accompanied President Bill Clinton to the affected areas. However, it was his effort to help tsunami victims last year that brought him the limelight. He not only personally visited the affected areas in Tamil Nadu, but also helped the Art of Living Foundation in providing humanitarian relief. He also supports various initiatives to provide education to the needy.

In the U.S., he gives generously to the Share & Care Foundation, Nargis Dutt Memorial Foundation, and the American India Foundation. He became a grand benefactor of the famous Vraj Temple in New Jersey as well, where he gave \$175,000 towards construction of the temple and a community center. As patron trustee of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAP) Charitable Foundation, meanwhile, Dr. Parikh helped raise large funds towards AIDS awareness in India and healthcare-



related programs in the country.

Professionally, he says that he has reached a stage where he can afford to play golf twice a week. "But I indulge in it only once a week, because there is so much more to do to help our community. For my personal livelihood or well being, I don't need any more money than what I already have. So I want to give back to the community," he says with true sincerity.

Community and Political Activism

The Indian American community of the early '80s could at best be called 'fragmented', and lacking leadership. Yet there were plenty of issues that confronted the community and U.S.-India relations, and Dr. Parikh soon saw himself being propelled into leadership positions.

Early on in his career, Dr. Parikh had the distinction of being the first Indian American to be appointed to the New Jersey Medical Licensing Board (Statutory Board of the NJ Government). During his three-year tenure, he successfully fought to change a discriminatory law whereby Indian medical graduates were not being given licenses to practice on the grounds that their graduate program did not match that of the U.S.

Politically bipartisan, he's been front and center of lobbying on Capitol Hill, the most spectacular of which efforts led to the formation of the Congressional Caucus of India and Indian Americans in the US Congress, and more recently, the Friends of India Caucus in the U.S. Senate.

From supporting Indian American candidates in elections, Diwali celebrations at the White House, and the Indo-U.S. civilian nuclear deal to opposing the delivery of F-16s to Pakistan, Dr. Parikh has personally lobbied with the powers that be on the Hill.

Personal Gratification

Awards, decorations, and citations have come pouring in through the years for professional as well as community achievements. Still, Dr. Parikh is nowhere close to hanging up his boots.

While counting his blessings for all these rewards, Dr. Parikh still feels a man's character is shaped mainly because of family values. "What I am is entirely because of my parents," he insists. And as for his own goals and expectations, they are entirely his own, as he sets new standards for higher achievement for himself. "There's no question of retirement for me, either from my

practice or from my community service," he says vehemently.

Although he does not regret it, Dr. Parikh sure acknowledges that his practice and community work have taken away precious moments of time with his wife and children.

Wife Sudha, a retired anesthesiologist, is the quintessential woman-behind-the-successful man and the mom who filled in for the dad too.



His biggest fear is that the second generation of Indian Americans will not take up the baton of political and community activism from their peers. "They are still confused," he admits. "They have no alliance with India like their parents. Their politics are completely local and their tendency is to ask 'what's in it for us?'" If he could, Dr. Parikh says he would like to see the younger generation of Indian Americans keep the torch burning the way the younger people in many Jewish communities do.

So, minus the full-time practice, the running of the Parikh Empire, and his community work, political activism, social activities, and family, does he have a small personal space of his own? "Oh yes," Dr. Parikh responds immediately. "Whenever I get a little time to myself... the most meaningless thing I do is watch old Hindi movies. I sure enjoy that!" So, minus the full-time practice, the running of the Parikh Empire, and his community work, political activism, social activities, and family, does he have a small personal space of his own? "Oh yes," Dr. Parikh responds immediately. "Whenever I get a little time to myself... the most meaningless thing I do is watch old Hindi movies. I sure enjoy that!"

- Advertorial

INDEX

Letters to the Editor
People
Immigration
Business
Community
Magazine
Sports

Pages 52-53-64

A REDIFF PUBLICATION

India Abroad

PERIODICAL

Friday, February 5, 2010 Vol. XI No. 19

www.rediff.com (Nasdaq: RLDI)

NEW YORK EDITION \$1

International Weekly Newspaper

Chicago/Dallas | Los Angeles | NY/NJ/CT | New York | Toronto



Venkatesan Ramakrishnan

PHOTO: SANDRIL KURTIS

Six of US

India's civilian honors recognize community luminaries



Ponnasali Somasundaran



Farooq Zakaria

PHOTO: LARRY



Sudhir Parikh



Sheldon Pollack

PHOTO: SANDRIL



Sand Chahal

PHOTO: JEFFREY SANDRIL

To subscribe 1-877-INDIA-ABROAD (1-877-463-4222) www.Indiaabroad.com/subscribe

Unlimited television channels from around the World.

WATCH OVER 66 INDIAN CHANNELS

• Live events • VOD • Video Conferencing

Tel.: (732) 287-6666

www.mybbtv.com Email: info@mybbtv.com

ADVERTISEMENT

