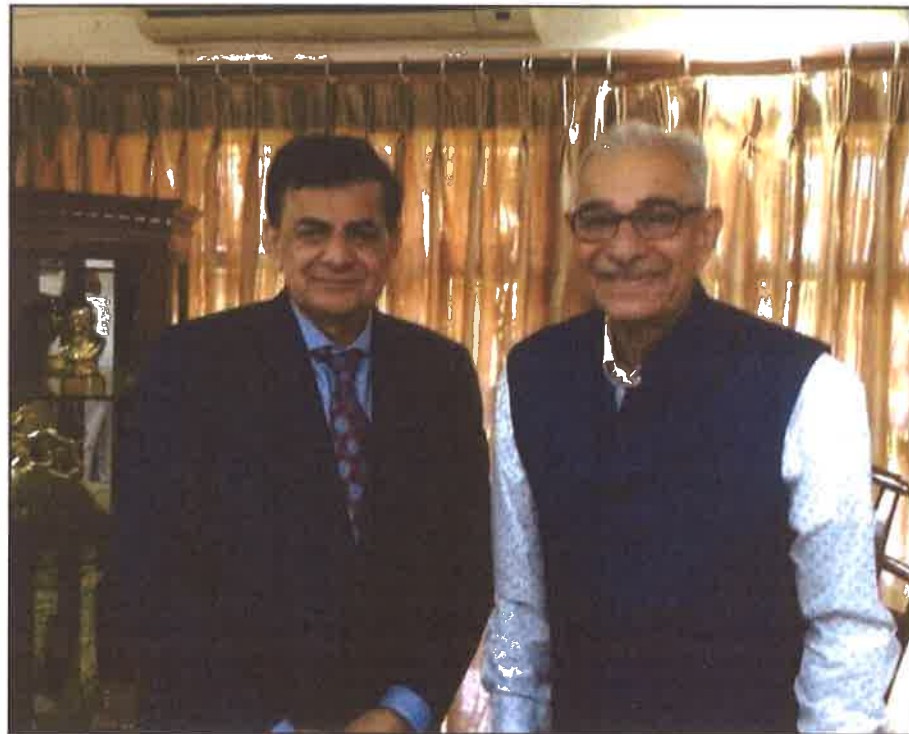




Dr. Sudhir Parikh with President of India Mukherji.



Dr. Sudhir Parikh with Governor of Gujarat Kohli.

Philanthropy

India Needs Philanthropy

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Padma Shri and Founder of Parikh Worldwide Media, Dr. Sudhir Parikh, distributing sewing machine to underprivileged women organized at Life Empowerment Center, Ahmedabad, Gujarat on January 10, 2017.

By DR. SUDHIR PARIKH

It's a well-known fact that the Indian American diaspora is deeply connected to their roots. Over the decades, even as the community got entrenched deeper in the American way of life, strived to reach higher corridors of power, became a wealthy, influential community, they didn't forget to inculcate in the next generation love for India and its multifaceted traditions and culture.

While vacations to India are always welcome, it's also an eye-opener for the younger generation who grew up in a developed country like the United States of America. The rampant poverty and sight of underprivileged people in India's towns and cities often evoke strong reaction.

One way to nurture love for India amongst the next generation, and also is as important for those who were born and brought up in India, is to do philanthropic work.

This commitment to philanthropy, to help underprivileged in India, is not only deeply satisfying on a personal level, but more importantly, is the need of the hour. It helps countless lives in India. It's perhaps the only hope for those who struggle to survive in the morass of poverty, give them hope for a better tomorrow.

There was a time when the Indian American community wanted to donate, but were not sure to which organizations to contribute to, wanted more transparency in operations. Today, that dilemma is not so acute anymore. There are several fine organizations like the American India Foundation and Pratham, among others, to choose from. Their zeal and commitment to India's progress is unquestionable.

Many of us also want to do philanthropy in India on a regional basis, help the state that we come from. We also want to target certain communities and people that we feel more strongly about.

That too, is highly recommended. I think that one way to do it is to do personal research into what organizations are doing work in a particular state in India, and check their track record over the years.

Having contributed to a few non-profits in India, I can assure you that there is no dearth of commitment in those organizations. Some of these organizations not only accept cash donations, but also are interested to avail of your expertise in helping the underprivileged. For example, if you are a physician or teacher, some time you spend in these communities, trying to cure, teach, will help too immeasurably.

One organization I can recommend highly is the Gujarat-based 'Life', which does great service not only in that state, but other states in India as well.

Jaya Bachchan, the former actress and now Member of Parliament, is the Chairperson of 'Life.' Please see her letter advocating the work of the organization.

Project 'Life' which was founded in 1978 as a blood-bank in Gujarat, has today grown to cover a range of activities operating on a vision to support, sustain and enrich the lives of the poor and underprivileged in India. It is one of several Indian non-governmental organizations that Non-Resident Indians and Indian Americans believe to be doing good work to bring people out of poverty and ill-health.

'Life' was established by two brothers,

Dear Friends,

We are celebrating 40th year of Changing lives through humanitarian activities. We wish you a great & wonderful time ahead. We are thinking, because Thinking matters to us - Thinking ahead even more. It's always good to think about tomorrow today.

That's why
To meet the tomorrow's challenge we act today. We motivate, educate prospective blood-givers and organizations so that we can collect, make proper testing, process scientifically, store efficiently and provide 24 x 7 as service providers. We have given 592 thousand units of blood & blood components to the needy patients.

We are the first blood bank in South East Asia to have X-Ray Blood Irradiator and we are the first blood bank to adopt NAT Thrombolytic in Gujarat State

We have screened 656 thousand Thalassemia Tests To prevent birth of Thalassemia major child.

We have distributed 257 thousand 6 to 18 Rs. (68 varieties) grown up trees for replantation.

Through our everyday Yoga sessions, We have impacted 579 thousand persons towards health & wellness. Conducted sitters in all 22 jails of Gujarat State benefiting 7041 prisoners.

We have pledged to reconstruct 106 buildings of primary schools and 5 Primary Health Centres in the rural area of Gujarat. Till now we have built, well equipped 78 schools and 5 Primary Health Centres.

We have sponsored more than 7 thousand marginalized Widows / women to enable them to be self-sustained.

We have been identified by the Government of Gujarat as one of the 50 Non Resident Gujarat Centres for Sarvodaya and Karish regions. We do take responsibility of sustaining social and environmental issues.

Come and join us - Together we will make a difference

Jaya Bachchan
Chairperson
Life Empowerment Center

Life Empowerment Center
Life - Since 1978
141-022-26791,23
141-022-26791,23
www.lifeindia.org

successful businessmen from Rajkot, Shashikant and Chandrakant Koticha, in 1978, in an effort to give back to society. Brought up by a strong mother after they lost their father at an early age, the brothers have expanded from a state-of-the-NABH (National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers) and AABB (American Association of Blood Banks, USA) blood bank, to implementing

women's empowerment projects, tree-planting initiatives, yoga health and wellness centers, including in more than 20 jails.

The Koticha brothers are bridging the gap between the resident and the global Gujaratis, and helping people stay fit.

Numerous celebrities and humanitarians, including Mother Teresa, have praised the organization over the years and visited its various branches. Mother Teresa visited the center in 1982; spiritual leader Pramukh Swamimaharajshri in 1991; renowned cricketer Sachin Tendulkar with the Indian team in 1993; Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan and his wife, Jaya Bachchan, visited as well as performed puja at the center in 1994; then Chief Minister of Gujarat Narendra Modi in 2010. I had an opportunity to visit the center last year.

A "responsible charity organization," Project 'Life' says of itself: "Most of our efforts, energy and resources are directed towards breaking the vicious circle of poverty and preventing avoidable pain."

I wish them all the best in their endeavor.

(Padma Shri Dr. Sudhir Parikh is founder and chairman, Parikh Worldwide Media.)



Amitabh Bachchan and Jaya Bachchan visited Life Blood Center on April 14, 1994.

Republic Day reception held at New India House

STAFF REPORTER
New York

THE CONSULATE General of India in New York hosted a reception on January 26, 2010 at New India House to celebrate the 61th Republic Day of India. The celebrations began with the reading of the President of India's address to the Nation by the Deputy Consul General.

Over 300 guests attended the event. Present for the occasion were notably - New Jersey Assembly Speaker Sheila Y. Oliver, Assembly Deputy Speaker Upendra J. Chivukula, Assembly Majority Whip John B. McKeon, Senate Minority Leader Thomas H. Kean Jr., Assembly Deputy Speaker Linda R. Greenstein, New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher and others including the Democratic Chairman and District Attorney of



1. Consul General Prabhu Dayal, New Jersey Assembly Speaker Sheila Y. Oliver and Dr. Sudhir Parikh.
2. Sheila Y. Oliver.
3. Guests at the meet.
4. New Jersey Assembly Deputy Speaker Upendra J. Chivukula.



Rockland County, Avendra Gupta Director General of ICCR and Vijay Narayan Chelode Consul General of India to the UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon of the United Nations. The dignitaries also spoke briefly to the guests present on the occasion and congratulated all on the Republic Day of the nation.

Dayal welcomed the guests and congratulated all Indian-Americans, Americans and friends of India on the country's Republic Day. He noted that the Indian-American community which has achieved outstanding success in the areas of medicine, engineering, architecture, law, academics, culture, literature, journalism, information technology, politics, banking

and finance. While becoming patriots, citizens of the United States, American Indians have retained India in their hearts, thus serving as a great bridge of understanding between the two great nations.

On this auspicious occasion, the Consul General felicitated Dr. Sudhir Parikh, Prof. Sheldon Pollack and Prof. Ponnasail Somasundaram for being awarded Padma Shri and Ujwalakumari Chaturvedi for the Pravaasi Bharatiya Samman, 2010.

The event concluded with a dinner reception. The evening was a blend of folk art and traditional art, music, dance, and theatrical presentations.

April 17, 2010

India Tribune 3

SECOND FRONT

Padma awards for Chatwal, Dr. Parikh

New Delhi: Two US-based Non-Resident Indians - Sant Singh Chatwal and Dr. Sudhir M. Parikh - were among many others who received the national Padma awards from the hands of President Pratibha Patil here on April 7. The Indian government recognizes distinguished Indians and people of Indian origin for their contributions in various fields with the Padma awards.

While Chatwal, who is a noted hotelier and whose selection for the award had earlier triggered a controversy, was awarded Padma Bhushan, Dr. Parikh, who is a well-known physician, philanthropist and publisher, was honored with Padma Shri.

In the past, Chatwal and Dr. Parikh were also the recipients of the US prestigious award - Ellis Island Award, the highest honor conferred on US immigrants for their lifetime community service.

In addition, Dr. Parikh was also the recipient of the Pravaasi Bharatiya Samman, a



Above: President Pratibha Patil presenting Padma Shri award to NRI Dr. Sudhir M. Parikh at an investiture ceremony in Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi on April 7. Right: Pratibha Patil presenting Padma Bhushan award to Chairman of Indo American Democracy Sant Singh Chatwal, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh along with his Cabinet Ministers can be seen in picture. - M. Jaffer Saipudina

special award given by the government of India to Non-Resident Indians for their individual accomplishments and contributions to India.

Apart from medical practice and publishing, Dr. Parikh is actively involved in a number of charitable causes in the US and in India. He was recently in New Delhi to attend the

Pravaasi Bharatiya Divas, where he was invited to speak about philanthropy as part of the PBD lecture series.

Earlier amid the controversy when the awards were announced, a petition was filed in the Delhi High Court against the government's decision to award Padma Bhushan to Chatwal.

S.K. Shah, who filed the petition through his counsel S.P. Mehta, demanded from the government that Padma Bhushan should not be conferred on a man against whom investigating agencies were probing five cases under various charges.

Describing Chatwal as one 'whose rise emanates from

his achievements.

'People like the Prime Minister of India have recognized my work. I worked for over 30 years promoting the US-India relations. So why in the world will I give up this award?' said Chatwal.

Stating that lobbying for the Indo-US nuclear deal was not an easy job, he said: "I worked



dubious and questionable and murky financial dealings,' the petitioner asked the government to reconsider its decision.

However, in reply to the controversy, Chatwal said that he had worked on behalf of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in the US and listed the Indo-US nuclear deal among

closely with Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Senator Charles Schumer and also some others to make sure it happened.

Chatwal said he had never actively tried to seek the Padma Bhushan and was not surprised at the outcry against him.

communityaffairs

Gujarati Community Hosts Celebration in New Jersey

By Ela Dutt

The International Gujarati Association (IGA) and the We Share We Care Foundation along with Royal Albert's Palace jointly hosted the 50th anniversary of Gujarat Day on May 9 at Royal Albert's Palace in Forts, New Jersey.

Dr. Sudhir Parikh, publisher of News India Times, was felicitated at the event attended by more than 1000 people. He was recognized for winning the coveted Padma Shri award from the Indian government.

Dr. Parikh is the only Gujarati physician to have received this award as well as the Ellis Island Medal of Honor and the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman award. Also participating in the event was the Police Unity Team (PUT), a non-profit that raises awareness about officers who have died in the line of duty. This year some 600 policemen and women from



around the country, joined by some from other countries including India, came to Royal Albert's Palace where they stayed the night. Shobhna Patel of IGA and News India Times.

The PUT participants are in

their tenth tour through the sites like World Trade Center and the Pentagon, commemorating the 9/11 terror attack.

On arriving at Royal Albert's Palace, in honor of Gujarat Day the PUT also declared it the



The International Gujarati Association (IGA) and We Share We Care hosted the 50th anniversary of Gujarat Day at the Royal Albert's Palace in Forts, N.J. May 9. Left, Harry E. Phillips, executive director, Police Unity Team honors Dr. Sudhir Parikh. Also seen in the photo are, Shree Jasan, owner of Royal Albert's Palace, left, and Alisal Doshi, president, International Gujarati Association, 2nd from left. Above, guests at the event.

Sudha Patel Day, says the organization's website.

"For ten years, We Share We Care Foundation and Royal Albert's Palace have honored Police Unity Tour," Shobhna Patel said. This year IGA also

joined in. PUT also honored Albert Jasan, owner of Royal Albert's Palace, and several others including cardiac surgeon Dr. Nilesh Patel, a pioneer in renal surgery, and N.J. Assemblyman Dipendra Chivukula.

Bay Area Celebrates Golden Jubilee of Gujarat

By a Staff Writer

More than 1,500 people attended a May 8 function commemorating the golden jubilee of the creation of the State of Gujarat. The function held at the Sunnyvale World Hindu Temple and Cultural Center, was organized by the Bay Area Gujarati Samaj of Northern California.

Barekrishna Majumdar, a senior welfare worker in California, inaugurated the function by cutting a ribbon at the entrance of the temple, according to a press release. The program began with the singing of the American and Indian national anthems, followed by a welcome address from Gujarati Samaj President Naran Patel.

Prominent guests and office bearers who attended the event included Sailesh Patel, Mukesh Mavaji, Uday Patel, Pragna Dadabhavala, Deepa Thakur, Urmita Patel, Sandeep Panvala, C.V. Patel, Anil Desai, Naveen Patel, Raniji Patel, Narendra Pathak, Jeetu Pandit, Rajesh Shah, Heera Patel and Satish Raval, the press release said.

The function was divided into morning and afternoon sessions. A Gujarati cultural program and a folk dance competition were held in the morning.

Twenty-four cultural groups from the Bay Area participated.

In the evening, Nann Patel honored Dr. Sudhir Parikh, publisher of News India Times, for having received the Padma Shri award from the Indian govern-



The Bay Area Gujarati Samaj of Northern California celebrated the golden jubilee of Gujarat at the Sunnyvale World Hindu Temple and Cultural Center on May 8. Above, President Naran Patel honors Dr. Sudhir Parikh at event. Below, Dr. Parikh, left, with guests attends a program celebrating the culture of Gujarat.



ment this year.

"This is not just an honor for me, but for the entire Gujarati community to whom I dedicate the award," Parikh said.

The award presentation was

followed by a cultural program, Gujarati Dayro. Participants included Abhaysingh Rathore and group, comedian Jeetu Divarkavala, Radha Vyas and Meena Patel.

Chicago to Mark Founding of Gujarat State

By N. Bhowm

CHICAGO

Gujarati community leaders received a kalash on May 4 ceremony in Chicago as part of "Swamin Gujarat," the yearlong celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the creation of the State of Gujarat in India.

The kalash, or earthen pot was brought from India by community members who had attended the formal ceremony launching the celebrations in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

At the lunch ceremony, which was telecast live and viewed by Gujarati communities across the United States, Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi and Jay Narayan Vyas, the state's health minister and minister for nonresident Gujaratis,

presented a kalash to Dr. Bhojan Barai, Tulsii Patel and Raman K. Patel, among others.

In an interview with Desi Talk, Barai, chairman of Manav Seva Mandir, said nonresident Indians from 50 countries joined the ministers and other guests at the Ahmedabad event.

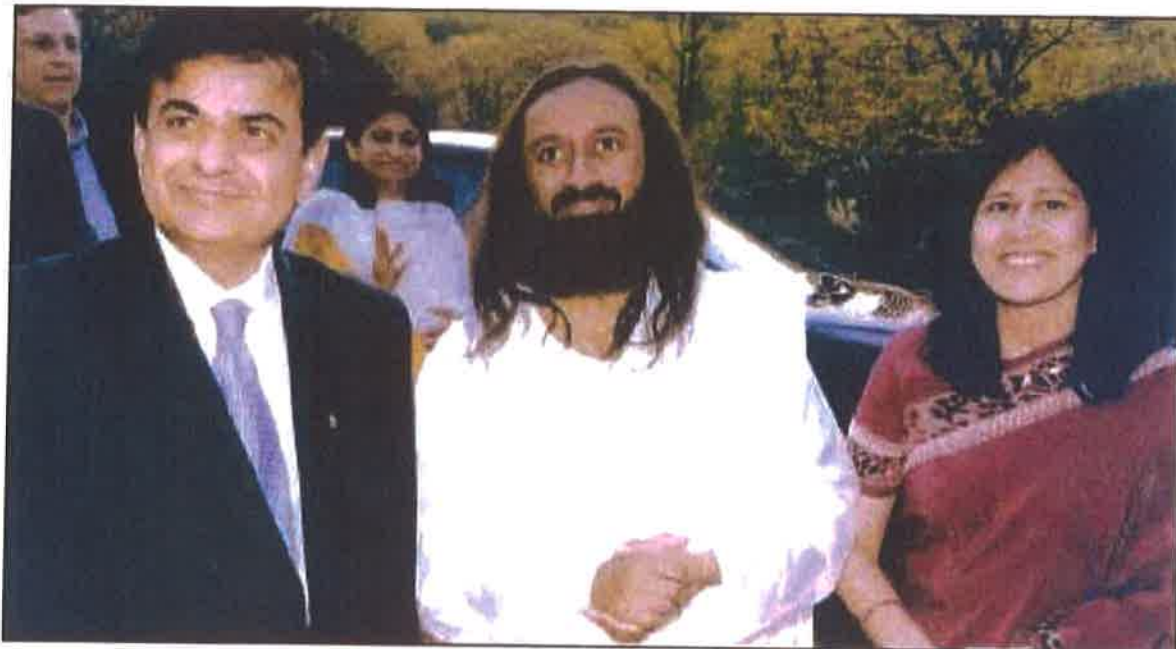
The kalash ceremony was held April 30 and presided over by Gujarat Gov. Kamada Benival. Barai said he and Patel brought Midwest kalash to Chicago on May 4.

Women performed tilak and arati ceremonies, Barai said.

The kalash will be taken to several Midwest cities, he said, adding that the Vishwa Gujarati Samaj has planned a May 31 celebration at Waterford Banquet in Elmhurst to mark the creation of Gujarat state.



From left, Raman Patel, Tulsii Patel, Barai, Malal Patel and other members of United Senior Parivar at the May 4 ceremony in Chicago.



Dr. Sudhir Parikh and Dr. Sudha Parikh hosting Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, founder of the Art of Living foundation at their NJ home. The event was aimed at familiarizing the work being done by Ekal Vidyalaya (One Teacher School) in tribal areas of India's interior. As a community activist, he has supported several charity organizations in India and USA. July 2003.



Dr. Sudhir Parikh with Sri Sri Ravi Sankar At Launch of Ekal Vidyalay.

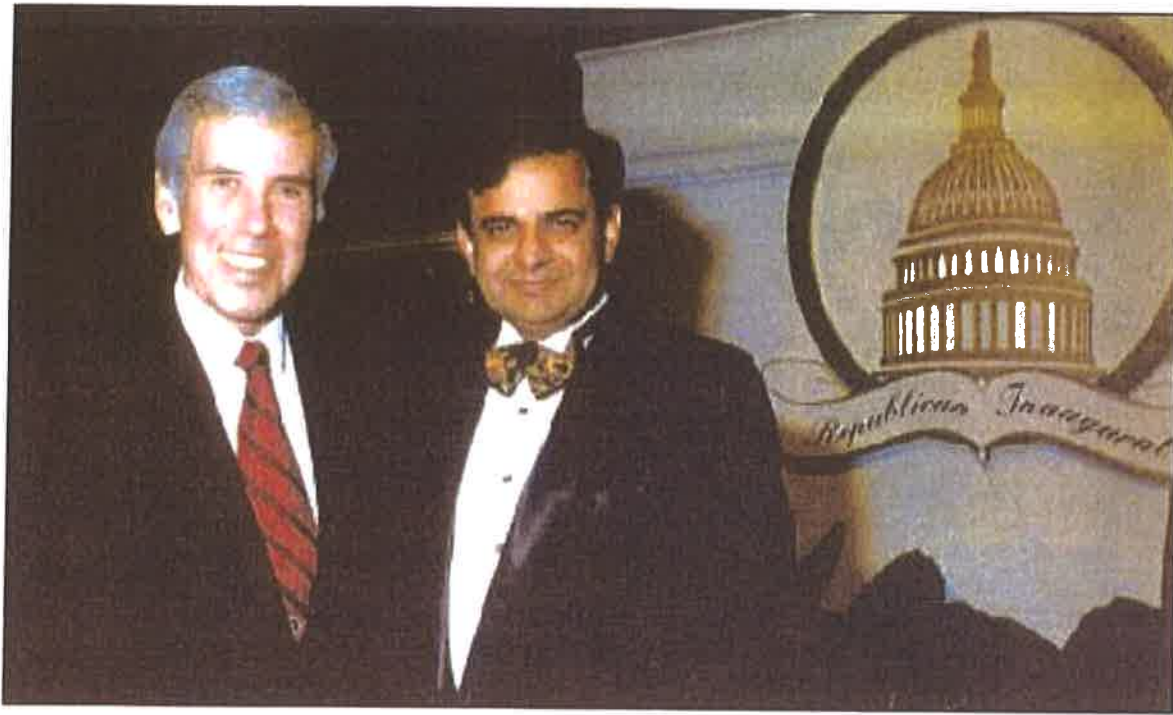




Dr. Sudhir Parikh with President of India Abdul Kalam.



Dr. Sudhir Parikh with Senator Robert Menendez.



Dr. Sudhir Parikh with Senator Richard Lugar, member of the powerful Senate Foreign Relations Committee.



Drs. Sudha and Sudhir Parikh with Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist.



As president of the Indian American Forum for Political Education, Dr Parikh honors US Congressman Crowley and Joe Wilson.



Dr. Parikh honoring Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr.



Drs. Sudhir and Sudha Parikh with Congressman Gary Ackerman, who served as the co-Chairman of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans.



Dr. Sudhir Parikh explains a point to Congressman Jim McDermott, who served as co-chairman of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans and visited India over 19 times.



Srinivasapuram natives honoring Dr. Parikh



Dr. Sudhir Parikh attending the satsang at Srinivasapuram Temple



Dr. Sudhir Parikh at the Kallar Beach



To Sudhir
Best Wishes *Geo W Bush*

Dr. Sudhir Parikh with President George W. Bush, participating in a function organized last September at Jackson, Mississippi.



Dr. Sudhir Parikh with President George W. Bush.



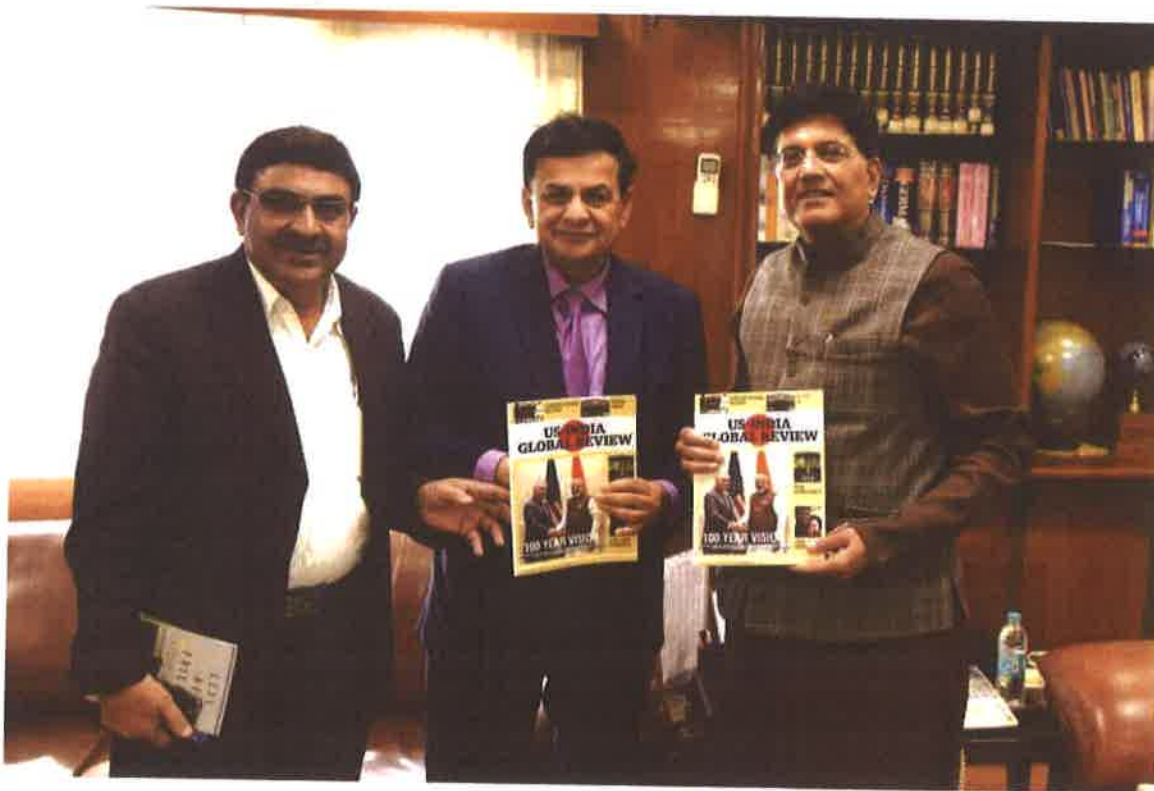
Dr. Sudhir Parikh with former Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee in September 2003.



Dr. Sudhir Parikh with former Prime Minister I.K. Gujral.



Sudhir Parikh with Hon Prime Minister of India Vaj Pai.



Dr. Sudhir Parikh with Minister of Railway Piyush Goyal.



The historic 25th India Day Parade in New York organized by Federation of Indian Associations (FIA) under the stewardship of Dr. Parikh.



Dr. Parikh along with New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg at a joint press conference.



From right to left: Dr. Parikh with Congressman Gary L. Ackerman, Indian Consul General in New York, Sashi Tripathi, and Congressman Benjamin Gilman.



Indian American Forum for Political Education (IAFPE) honor India Caucus Co-Chair Jow Crowley at the annual congressional reception and dinner held at the Dirksen Senate Office building in Washington, D.C.

L-R: Congressman Sherrod Brown, Congresswoman Denise Majette, Congressman and India Caucus Co-Chair Jow Crowley being honored by Dr. Parikh, Congressman Frank Pallone, Congressman Joe Wilson and Congressman Matheson.



Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani hands an MOU prepared by Project 'Life' to Dr. Sudhir Parikh, publisher of News India Times and recipient of India's Padma Shri award, at their Aug. 10 meeting in Gandhinagar.





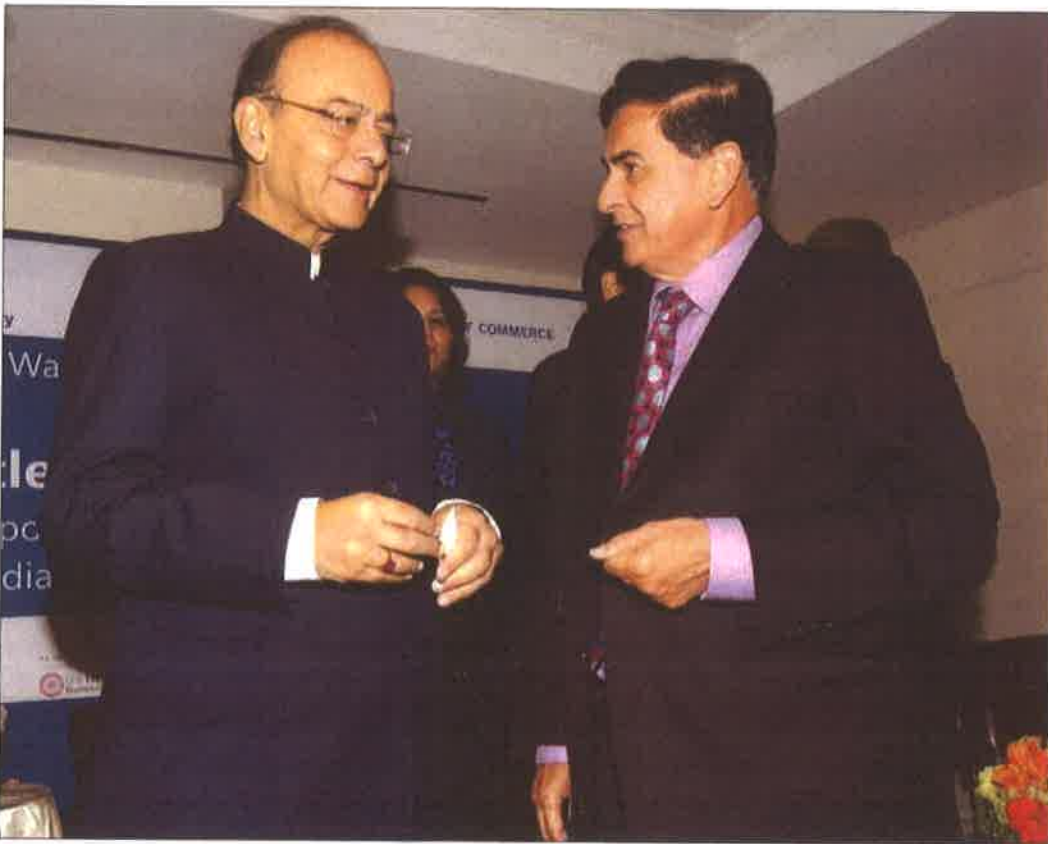
Dr. Sudhir Parikh with Pepsico CEO Mrs. Indira Nooie.



Dr. Sudhir Parikh with CEO Mahendra & Mahendra.



India's Minister of External Affairs Sushma Swaraj in conversation with Dr. Sudhir Parikh and Dr. Sudha Parikh, at the New York Palace hotel, on September 24.



PHOTOS: JAY MANDAL/ON ASSIGNMENT

India's Finance Minister Arun Jaitley with Padma Shri Dr. Sudhir Parikh, Founder and Publisher of Parikh Worldwide Media.



Dr. Sudhir Parikh with President Barack Obama during India tour 2010.

