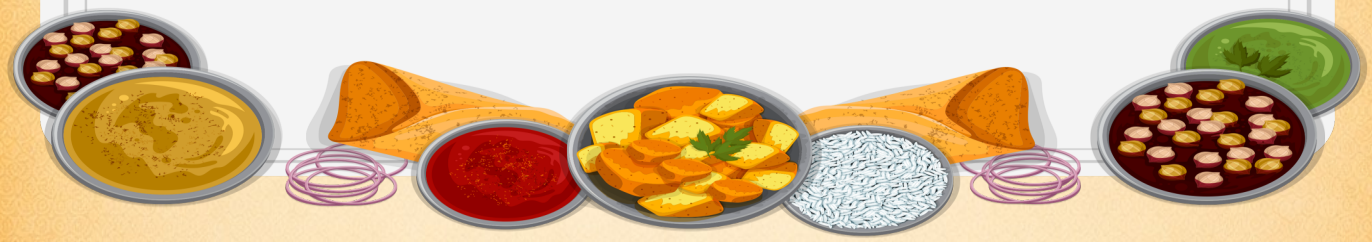
43rd Annual Festival of India

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The Greater Richmond Convention Center

September 12th (Saturday) & 13th (Sunday) 2026

Admission to the festival is free

www.thefestivalofindia.org

We are proud to be a part of 43rd Festival of India

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Dominion	(Cover Inside Right)

Disclaimer of liability: Every effort is made to provide accurate and complete information. However with so many documents available and with short deadlines, we cannot guarantee that there will be no errors. With respect to the content of this souvenir book, neither the Editor nor the Hindu Center of Virginia makes no claims, promises or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the contents of this book, and expressly disclaims liability for errors and omissions in the contents of this book.



http://thefestivalofindia.org



Namaste!

It is with great joy and deep gratitude that we present this souvenir book in celebration of the 43rd Festival of India.

This festival has always been more than just an event; it is a celebration of culture, community, and connection. Whether this is your first time joining us or you've been part of this tradition for years, today you are part of something special.

This year's theme, "Bridging Cultures," is an invitation to experience one of the world's most vibrant and diverse cultures right here in our city, while celebrating the ties that connect us all. Every booth, every flavor, every performance is a bridge, linking tradition to today, and one community to another. Together, they capture the spirit of India: vibrant, soulful, and timeless.

This festival wouldn't be possible without the love and energy of our community. To our sponsors, vendors, performers, and countless volunteers, thank you for pouring your time, passion, and heart into bringing this celebration to life. To our guests, thank you for joining us, supporting, and sharing in this cultural journey.

Together, we've created more than a festival; we have built a bridge of unity, joy, and connection. This is where the story of India and the story of America meet. For many, it began with the courage of immigrant parents who carried traditions across oceans. For others, it continues with the next generation of youth who proudly blend two worlds, honoring heritage while shaping the future. The Festival of India is living proof that our stories are stronger when shared, and that culture, at its best, brings us together.

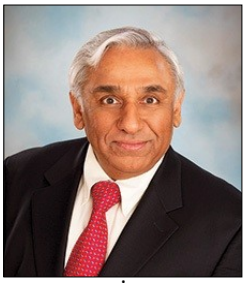
As we gather in celebration, our hearts also turn to our neighbors in Nepal, whose communities are still recovering from the devastating floods that struck this past August, and to our people who lost their lives in the devastating floods, and to their communities still morning their loss. In that spirit of bridging cultures, we hold them in our thoughts and encourage our community to support relief efforts however we can.

May the memories of this festival continue to inspire and bring us closer.

Lastly, as always “Sarve Jana Sukhino Bhavanthu” (May all the people be happy) God bless us all!

With gratitude,

Shiv N. Khanna & Vijay Vemuri



Shiv N Khanna



Vijay Vemuri

MARK R. WARNER
VIRGINIA

UNITED STATES SENATOR
WASHINGTON, D.C.



September 12, 2026

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to all who are gathered at the Greater Richmond Convention Center for the 43rd Festival of India.

This annual event provides a special opportunity to celebrate the Indian-American community in the Greater Richmond Region and their tremendous contributions to the Commonwealth. We have all benefited from your ideas, values, and traditions. I commend the organizing committee for hosting this festival to share the vibrant Indian heritage through live performances, traditional cuisine, cultural exhibits, and East-West fusion dance and music.

I take great pride in serving as co-chair of the bipartisan India Caucus in the United States Senate, which was the first country-focused caucus in Congress and remains one of the largest country caucuses today. The United States-India partnership is defined by a collaborative relationship that promotes our shared interests, ranging from security and defense systems, economic development, human rights, to cutting-edge technology. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues in the Senate to further enhance one of our country's most consequential relationships.

Please accept my best wishes for a fulfilling and successful event.

Sincerely,

Mark R Warner

MARK R. WARNER
United States Senator

City of Richmond



September the 12th and 13th, 2026

As Mayor of Richmond, I am honored to welcome you to the Festival of India!

To all the guests joining us for this year's celebration, welcome to our City. I hope you enjoy the performances, cuisine, traditions, and fellowship that make this festival so special.

This cultural festival has been an important forum for artistic and cultural expression for more than four decades, and Richmond is fortunate enough to host this celebration once again. I want to express my sincere gratitude to the leaders and organizers that have come together to create this amazing event, where people throughout our region can experience living traditions, meaningful history, and vibrant culture of India. I also want to extend my gratitude to our artists and performers - your talent and commitment to keeping traditions alive is what makes this celebration of community so special.

Richmond is proud to be home to a growing and dynamic Indian American community whose contributions enrich our City in countless ways. Events such as the Festival of India remind us that our differences are something to celebrate and that culture has the power to connect us across generations and backgrounds.

As Mayor, one of my priorities is to support policies that build thriving, inclusive communities. Today, I get to feel the joy of what an inclusive community really means: through music, dance, food, and art, this festival creates a space for people to come together, learn from one another, and celebrate the diversity that makes our community stronger.

I am so happy to commemorate the Festival of India for a second year running.

Welcome, and enjoy!

Sincerely,

Danny Avula, MD, MPH
Mayor
City of Richmond

2026 The Festival of India
Message from the Co-Chairs

Dear Friends of the Festival of India,

We are proud to serve as ambassadors of two remarkable cultures—India, with its glorious history and extraordinary cultural heritage, and the United States, a global leader in technology, business, innovation, and social responsibility. Both cultures have made and continue to make meaningful contributions to a better and more connected world.

As representatives of both, it is our privilege and responsibility to serve as **"Bridging Cultures" ambassadors**, bringing people together through shared experiences, understanding, and appreciation.

The **Festival of India** provides a unique and wonderful opportunity to do just that. Once again, this special weekend invites our neighbors, friends, colleagues, and families to experience the richness and diversity of India without having to travel thousands of miles.

We invite you to enjoy the sights, sounds, aromas, and flavors of India. Savor delicious dishes and refreshing mango lassi, and explore favorites such as dosa, kachori, Kathi rolls, butter chicken, and many other mouthwatering delicacies.

The Festival will also showcase the vibrant diversity of Indian performing arts. Guests can enjoy traditional folk performances, contemporary Bollywood-style dance and music, and beautiful presentations of India's classical artistic traditions.

Be sure to explore the many merchants offering beautiful and unique Indian products and treasures. And don't miss the opportunity to experience **henna**, the beautiful temporary body art tradition that has been cherished across the Indian subcontinent for centuries.

The continued success of the Festival of India would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors, vendors, volunteers, and event partners, **Aramark and Global Spectrum**. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to each and every one of you for your dedication, enthusiasm, and partnership.

Together, we make this festival more than an event we make it a celebration of culture, community, friendship, and the connections that bring us closer together.

We look forward to welcoming you to the **2026 Festival of India** and celebrating with you.
With our sincere gratitude,

Abhay Bajekal
Vijay Ramnarain
Sanjay Thirunagari

ॐ bharathi yoga ॐ

Have you always wanted to learn Yoga? Do you want to learn Yoga the traditional Indian way understanding its background and holistic significance? Here's your opportunity to learn Yoga from Yoga instructors, certified from Rishikesh, India.

Research suggests that yoga may help improve general wellness by relieving stress, supporting good health habits, and improving mental/emotional health, sleep, and balance, relieve low-back pain and neck pain, and possibly pain from tension-type headaches and knee osteoarthritis, etc. https://www.nccih.nih.gov/health/yoga-what-you-need-to-know

Current class schedule (subject to change)

1. **Advanced: Sundays 7:00 AM - HCV**
2. **Beginners: Sundays 8:30 AM – HCV**
3. **Intermediate: Wednesdays 6:30 PM - HCV**
4. **Seniors (65+): Saturdays 9:30 AM – HCV**
5. **Meditation: 7:00 PM - virtual**

Our Yoga instructor and founder of Yoga classes at HCV - Ravi Menon, has been practicing Yoga for over 38 years and teaching for over 12 years. We now have a newly certified teacher – Deepak Patil. Deepak and Ravi are both internationally certified from the **Patanjali International Yoga Foundation, Rishikesh, India** and registered with the Yoga Alliance, USA.

All fees paid for the above Yoga classes go to the Hindu Center of Virginia (HCV).

If you are interested in joining Bharathi Yoga classes, please sign up at the Yoga booth, or contact the instructor Ravi Menon by email at ravi4net1@gmail.com, or just show up for the Sunday class.

बुद्धियुक्तो जहातीह उभे सुकृतदुष्कृते । तस्माद्योगाय युज्यस्व योगः कर्मसु कौशलम् ॥ ५० ॥

One who prudently practices the science of work without attachment can get rid of both good and bad results of actions in this life itself. Therefore, strive for Yoga, which is the art of working skillfully (in proper consciousness) – Bhagavad Geeta II-50

We are proud to be a part of the 43rd Festival of India

With Best Compliments from

Hindu Center of Virginia

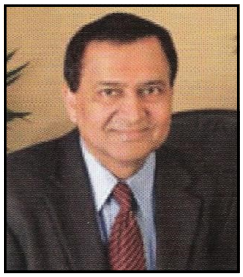
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43rd Annual Festival of India Team


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Co-Chairperson

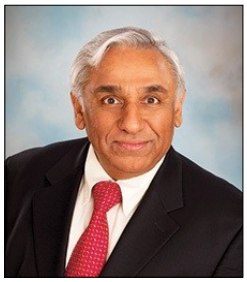

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Outreach/Vendor booth


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FOI Team


Koti Panguluti
Information Desk


Sudhendra Ayyam
FOI Team


Rajendar Prasad K.
Volunteer Efforts


Dubey
Outreach

43rd Annual Festival of India Team



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Cultural Team Lead



Murali Chemudupati
Cultural Team



Naveena
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Ravi Tamma
Cultural Team



Sangita Patel
Cultural Team



Prabodh Chiplunkar
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Shikha
Cultural Team



Binita
Cultural Team



Saanvi Gourishetty
Media Design

Thank you!

Food Booth Sponsors

and

Volunteers



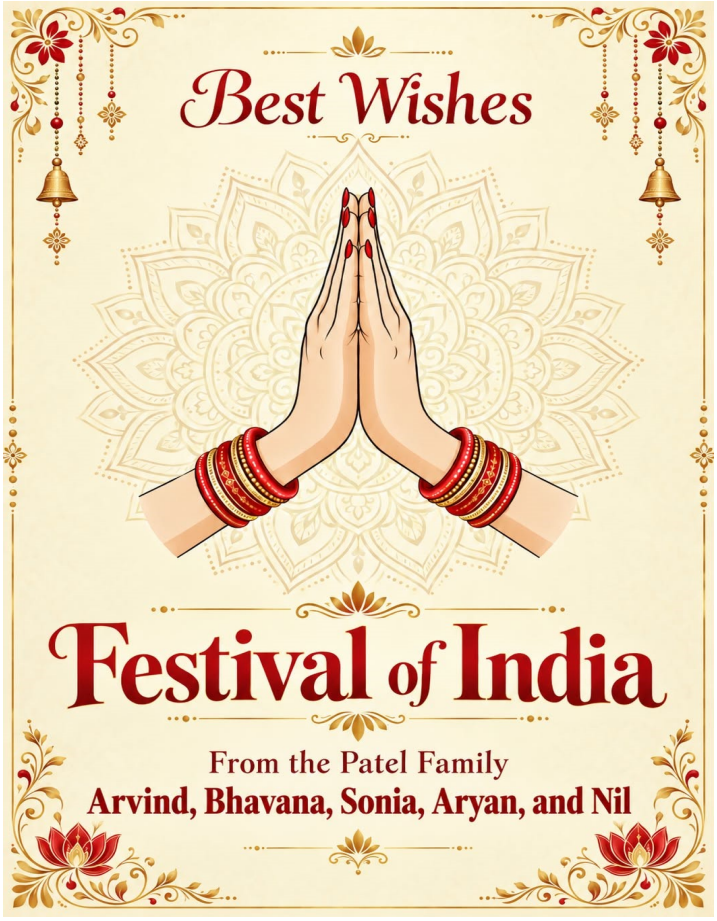
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Chairperson


Suchasmitha Yarlagadda
Vice-Chairperson

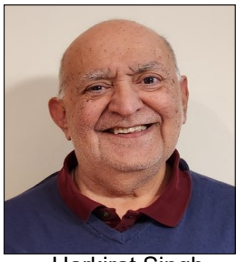

Shuchi Jain


Mohit Mago


Ram Misra


Shreyank Tripathi


Mukul Paithane


Harkirat Singh


Lakshmi Sridhar

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Social Media Committee:	*Rajani Edupalli*
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Culture/Stage:	*Anil Jain (Lead) Murali Chemudupati, Smita Jain, Sangeeta Patel, Ravi Tamma, Prabodh Chiplunkar*
Stage setup:	*Anil Jain, Decoration/Theme: Anu Chemudupati (Lead), Murali Chemudupati, & Vijay Ramnarain*
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Poster Design, Signs:	*Pavan Kumar Gourishetty, Saanvi Gourishetty*
Souvenir Book:	*Shiv.K Khanna (Lead), Sanjay Thirunagari, Vijay Ramnareian, Vijay Vemuri, Raj Dubey, Dinesh Nayak*
Vendor Booth:	*Abhay Bajekal (Lead), Pavan Kumar Gourishetty*
Volunteer Coordination & Event wrap-up:	*Subra Kandalam (Lead), Rajendra Prasad Konduru*
Website:	*Sanjay Thirunagari, Vijay Vemuri*

" This is partial list of volunteers helping to plan the Festival of India"

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Warmest Wishes to the Festival of India!



Celebrating the vibrant colors, timeless values, and rich traditions of India in the heart of Richmond

Thank you to the organizers and volunteers for bringing our community together to showcase the best of Indian art, culture, and hospitality.

Wishing the Festival of India grand success and a wonderful, joyful experience for all guests and participants!

- Puneet and Baljit Puri

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Best wishes from Inder & Meena Midha on 43rd Festival of India.



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Pictures–Festival of India 2025































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Shantha Tripuraneni

&

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