

Website: www.kojain.com

A non-profit Organization

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President's Message

Jai Jinendra and Pranam to all my KOJAIN Community members,

I hope everyone is able to enjoy the summer of 2022 as most of us are out of Covid restrictions after two years. Many of us have taken to traveling in last few months and with schools out now, many will be able to travel to meet family and friends, explore nature etc. Wishing you all a safe and happy travels.



KOJAIN Matrimonial initiative launched this year is an effort to provide a platform to the community that can cater to the parents and matrimonial candidates too. We all recognize the differences related to search for partner has evolved over last couple of generations and with emergence of social media now. Matrimonial committee's endeavor is to provide a virtual gathering place for parents to meet and provide a separate platform for singles to mingle. We have had three parent meetings and couple of singles meetings. Another platform for this initiative is the matrimonial information of singles being published in this newsletter, we are glad many parents and singles can take advantage of this KOJAIN initiative for its members.

KOJAIN youths are also creating a platform where youths can continue to meet and stay in touch with community. Our Youth team volunteers are committed to provide various avenues by which youths stay connected with Kutchi roots.

Once again, this year we received many applications for scholarship 2022 and we are amazed at the resumes of applicants submitted for scholarship consideration. We are truly blessed as community to have such future bright stars and leaders.

We are continuing to work on the KOJAIN Directory project, you will be hearing very soon from us on this initiative. We will need everyone's support to make sure all your family and friends in North America are submitting their details for KOJAIN directory.

We look forward to hearing from you so please send your views/reviews and articles to newsletter@kojain.com.

Jai Jinendra and Best regards,

Manish Mota

President | KOJAIN, 2022-23



As announced earlier via email KOJAIN Scholarship committee announced following three applicants as recipient of KOJAIN scholarship for 2022, each of these recipient gets a one time \$1000 scholarship. We look forward to community support to continue this scholarship for many years to come.

Congratulations!!



Meera Manek (Parents: Ashish and Minal Manek, MI) is an incoming freshman at the University of Michigan. She recently graduated summa cum laude from Troy High School where she was captain of the dance team and played golf for 4 years. She has also started a volunteer organization during the pandemic to assist virtual learning accessibility for underprivileged kids in Detroit, Michigan. Meera loves dancing, reading, and playing the guitar. She plans to major in Data Science and Information and hopes to live and work in a big city in the future!



Rohan Gala (Parents: Simil and Vaishali Gala, WI) graduated as valedictorian from Bay Port High School in Green Bay, Wisconsin. During high school, he was a non-voting member of his local school board, editor of Sandesh magazine, an international DECA competitor, a National Merit Scholarship award winner, a state tennis player, and published researcher. During his free time, he enjoys playing tennis, watching sports, and spending time with his friends and family. This fall, he will be attending the University of Pennsylvania to study finance with a double major in computational biology.



Khushi Jain (Parents: Manish and Kavita Jain (Maru)) graduated from North Hollywood Highly Gifted Magnet as valedictorian and is now an incoming freshman at UC Berkeley's Rausser College of Natural Resources. She is interested in studying environmental science and has created both an environmental club and organized an online workshop with over 100 participants and 12 professional speakers. Apart from academics, she has been learning kathak for 13 years and has performed in countless fundraisers, recitals, and community events—and even won JAINA's 2019 Jain's Got Talent competition. Additionally, she enjoys playing or listening to music and spending time with her little sister and is excited to get involved with the Indian and Jain community on a college campus.

Annual Spring Potluck Picnic

KutchValley had its annual Spring Potluck Picnic on May 1, 2022 after a gap of 2 years. It was wonderful to gather with Kutchi families and enjoy variety of delicious food brought by each family.

This year we had a record turnout with 320+ total attendees, 100+ families joining from 19 different cities. Kids enjoyed Bounce House. Adults enjoyed medavo and games such as Favorite Corner Elimination, Tricky Broom Challenge, Tug of War Challenge and Twisted Dumb Charades. Ice cream and fruits were served in afternoon to refresh everyone. Picnic Organizing Team: Jaikit Savla, Naman Gala, Prashant Shah and Games Team: Isha Shah & Dhara Nagda. A nice summary of the picnic can be viewed at: https://youtu.be/HEoXdVIGSjA



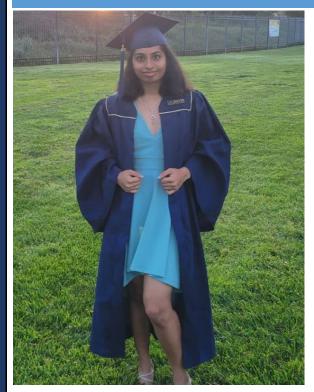




Newborn announcement

Kushmi Dedhia, Parth Shah and grand-parents Dr. Ela Dedhia and Manoj Dedhia are happy to announce the arrival of baby girl **Mishka**.

Graduation



Keya Nilesh Shah (Parents: Mrinalini and Nilesh Devshi Shah (Merau - Malad)) graduated in June 2022 in 3 years with a B.S. Honors degree Majoring in Computer Science and Minoring in Technology Management from University of California, Davis. She is looking forward to starting a career in software development with Netflix. Parents congratulate her on this achievement and wish her continued success.

Vadil (Senior) Milan

KutchValley hosted a program specially designed around our Vadils (Seniors) - "Vadil Milan" on July 31, 2022. It was in a park in Cupertino, CA. Around 160+ people of all ages attended out of which around 70+ were Vadils. Many were visiting parents and there were some resident ones too. Everyone was happy to meet each other and do Medavo and find connections between them as Kutchis usually do. We played some interesting games on Kutch Gaams, Individual Interests (Favorite Singer, Favorite Cuisine, Location in India, etc). South Indian lunch was served and some fruits in afternoon to cool off. Everyone had a great time - especially the Vadils. The Vadil Milan gathering was organized by Kunjan Meckoni, Madhavi Khona, Nilay Chheda, Parul Shah, Payal Rambhia, and Prashant Shah.





Region 4 – Annual Picnic



Annual Kutchi picnic in region 4 occurred at Burr Ridge IL park district on July 24th, 2022. We had a turnout of roughly 100 people representing areas in Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin. We had a potluck, played cards, volleyball and other sports. Many new family members came and met the larger tristate family. We look forward to meeting again for Diwali.

Other Updates-

Ram Gada Honored - "Character Values: Upholding Our Beloved Community"

Ram Gada was recognized on Friday evening, June 17, 2022, by Sweet Potato Comfort Pie (SPCP) at it's second annual event recognizing the contributions of members of the community for their dedication and work to advance racial justice and equity, heal damage caused by race-based trauma, and elevate marginalized voices and experiences.

He is the "Pillar" for his heavy involvement, energy, and endless service towards the ideals that he believes in. Ram's work for the Minnesota History Center, India Association of Minnesota, Gujarati Samaj, Jain Center, JAINA, KOJAIN, HSMN, TCNV and MnMN, honoring Mahatma Gandhi, was recognized. Ram's picture and bio are now one of twenty recognized Minnesotans.

Niketa Dedhia-Shah, ex-KOJAIN Regional Director, Region 1, was invited as Chief Guest by KVO Mumbai to speak to a houseful audience. All the students coming to USA and other countries were present along with the heads of all Organizations.

Niketa currently lives in St. Louis, MO along with her scientist husband.



Atlanta Area Picnic



Jalsa Picnic of KOJAIN Region 5 was on May 21, 2022, with about 55 people in Atlanta, GA. It was in Thrasher Park in Norcross, GA, with public green space with an amphitheater, pavilion & gazebo plus picnic tables & play equipment.

We had reserved a Pavilion, with tables, benches, and shade, for our group. Jayshree Hemant Gogri generously sponsored the reservation.



We all had an exciting time. We had an introduction round, played games, took lovely pictures, and made strong bonds. We all had high tea with variety of tasty snacks, amazing dinner with delicious food items and deserts, for all to relish on. It was a 100% Jain Potluck Picnic with everybody contributing.

We are extremely thankful to each and every one, for actively and enthusiastically participating in planning, executing, and helping right from young kids, adults to our elderly folks, especially Beena Rajen Shah

[Nisar – Devpur – Birmingham, AL], Urvi Viral Shah [Gogri – Mamania – Wadala - Lawrenceville, GA], Dr. Trupti Narendra Shah [Visaria – Chheda – Bhachau – Lilburn, GA] & Karishma Anish Momaya [Jakhau – Marietta, GA].

Regional News: Region 6

Summer Picnic is planned for Sunday August 21st, 2022. Please contact Regional Director Mamata Maheshwari for details.

KOJAIN Community members of JSMW Update:

Jain Society of Metropolitan Washington jubilantly celebrated Mahavir Janma Kalyanak on May 1. This event was well attended and was the first major in-person event since 2020. The celebration featured special recognitions, emphatic stage performances by all Pathshala classes, raffles, and a major temple update. Attendees, both young and old, reveled in the grand celebrations showcasing the magnificent dreams of Queen Trishalamata, celebrated the grand efforts of Pathshala teachers and students attending Pathshala online for the last couple of years, and raised significant awareness and funding for our new Derasar. The following VIPs from the community recognized our Sangh and attended to celebrate with us:

- Mr. Marc Elrich, Montgomery County Executive
- Mr. Anshul Sharma, Embassy of India Education & Community Affairs Counselor
- Leaders from Maryland Governor's Office of Community Initiatives: Mr. Steve McAdams, Executive Director and Ms. Christina Poy, Director
- Ms. Kate Chance, Montgomery County Office of Community Partnerships
- Ms. Irene Prabu Das and Dr. Rubin Baskir, Executives with NIH All of Us Research Program
- Esteemed leaders from BAPS: Mr. Hiten Patel, Mr. Jay Kansara, Mr. Harshad Patel, Mr. Raj Rathor







Annual Picnic – New Jersey

Annual KCONJ picnic was held on Sunday, July 10, at Colonial Park, Somerset, NJ, from 10 AM to 6 PM. Some 140 people attended it including 25 kids. To ensure no spread of the Covid-19 virus, only vaccinated adults were allowed to register. Breakfast, lunch and dinner were served.

The picnic was equally enjoyed by kids, grown-ups and seniors with great food, games and "medavo". These were fruits of great efforts by Shailesh and Varsha Gala as well as volunteers including Kiran and Bharti Sangoi. KCONJ appreciates a donat ion of \$1000 from Kanti and Lata Gala towards the cost of the picnic expenses.

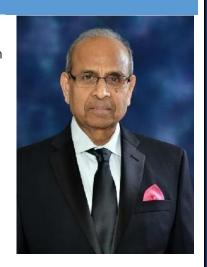
More picnic photos can be seen on the following link: https://photos.app.goo.gl/F75FJH5YDRkkKjyL8



Obituary

Talakshi Kenia (Gaam: Baroi) – husband of Hemkuvar and father of Ketan, Leena and Kalpesh passed away on July 14th, He was 77 years old. Talakshi was born in 1945 in Kutch, India to parents Ragavji Kenia and Maniben Bheda. The oldest of ten siblings, he was a true family man who took care of everyone around him.

He married Hemkuvar Kenia in 1964, and had three children, Ketan, Leena, and Kalpesh. They moved to the United States in 1984 where they proceeded to live a very vibrant and industrious life. After initially settling down in Brooklyn, New York, Talakshi later moved to New Jersey and resided in Harrison, Tenafly, and finally Livingston, where he lived for 25 years until his death. Ketan describes him as a very honest and righteous man who taught him to be an upstanding citizen and a positive member of society.

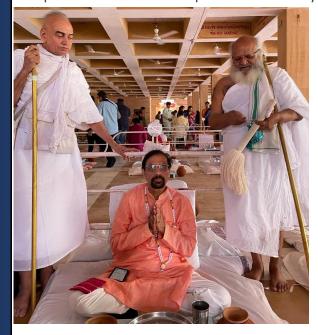


In addition to his children and siblings, he is mourned by his two grandsons, Jilesh and Meer. They remember him as a very caring and thoughtful grandfather who had a playful and charming personality.

Talakshi was beloved in his community and was known for his calm demeanor and humility. He treated everyone with the utmost respect and was a man of integrity. Talakshi passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family. His family requests everyone to pray for his soul in its journey to heaven.

Regional News: Region 9

With the blessing of Bhagwan, Guruji and Elders, Kirti Khona (Long Island, NY) finished his 3rd Varshitap this year. He has done one year of Beiyasana tap as well before entering into the 3rd Varshitap. First Varshitap was completed in 2017 and Paarna and Mahotsav was done under the Guidance of Adhyapak Shri Jayeshbhai Khona in Long Island, NY. Second Varshitap completed in 2019 at Hastinapur India. Now this year 2022 3rd Varshitap Parna was done at Palitana India.





Summer in New England

For New Englanders, summer is a happy time with sunshine and warm weather, a luxury available only a few months of the year. This year post pandemic, many of us have welcomed our parents from India and are spending quality family time together. Boston Kutchhis are planning a summer picnic on August 14th 2022.

10+ Kutchhi kids from Region 10 attended the YJA 2022 convention in Dallas, TX during the July 4th weekend and had a great experience bonding with Kutchhis and Jain youth from around the country. Two Kutchi families from region 10 volunteered at the conference and were happy to facilitate a special Kutchi Medavo at YJA.

Neev Maru, son of Nilam & Ashish Maru (Bidada) graduated from Westford Academy high school and will be attending University of Connecticut in the fall.

Region 11 - Canada

Annual Picnic – July 9, 2022

The most awaited event of the year for the Canadian Kutchhis - 'KOJAIN Summer Picnic' took place on July 9th, 2022 at The Centennial Park (Etobicoke, Toronto). The excitement for the event was boundless which was reflected in the number of participants who registered for and attended the picnic. More than 225 Kutchhis of all age groups (toddlers to seniors) attended the picnic. Some of the Kutchhi friends were newcomers to Canada (landed less than a week).

Approximately 35-40 volunteers worked dedicatedly for weeks to make this a very successful event. Volunteers were divided into various teams (Registration team, Games team, Venue Setup Team, Food team, Emergency Response teams) who worked individually as well as coordinated with each other to run the show smoothly.

A unique activity that was tried for the first time at our picnic, was organizing multiple (>10) fun n fair-style game stations. People would visit these stalls/stations and play fun games and collect stickers for each of their successful participation. Under the supervision of the senior members, each of the game stations was managed by volunteers who were either newcomers to Canada, recent high school graduates, or University undergrad students. This way these volunteers had a chance to interact with other fellow kutchhis. The fun station games were followed by Group games that were planned for different age groups and competitive team games. It should be noted that all the teams (10 teams of 16-17 members each) were formed ahead of the event and was balanced with respect to age and gender.

The highlight of any event is the food which was ample and delicious starting from snacks, tea, dinner and dessert. Both Jain and Non-Jain food options were ordered (based on individual choices while registering). This year we tried to minimize plastic waste by using environmentally friendly disposables and using 15 liters of water cans with dispensers instead of plastic water bottles.

We felicitated our past Regional Director (2018-19), and Kojain Secretary (2022-21), Bhavesh Veera, who was attending his last picnic in Canada before relocating to New Jersey. Any kutchhi gathering is incomplete if it doesn't end with Garba. "Ae Halo" was enough to bring everybody on the dance floor.

Members paid \$10 each for this event that was partially (>50%) sponsored by a few families. Congratulations to all our enthusiastic volunteers and Thank you to our fellow Kutchhis for their participation and special Thanks to all our generous Donors. The success was nothing but a result of Great Teamwork.

A lot of pictures and videos to relive the moments can be found here: (https://photos.app.goo.gl/ncpqr8ViXbLLSSbh6).





KOJAIN Host Family Program

We are approaching that time of the year again, we will have new batch of Kutchi students arriving in North America starting August. As you know our Host Family Program volunteers are ready to help settle these kids by connecting with local host families.

How to get connected with KOJAIN host family program:

<u>Students</u>: If you are parent or the student who is coming to US we request you to get connected with KOJAIN host family program via sending an email at <u>hostfamily@kojain.com</u> with details of which city/state you are coming and also the name of the University.

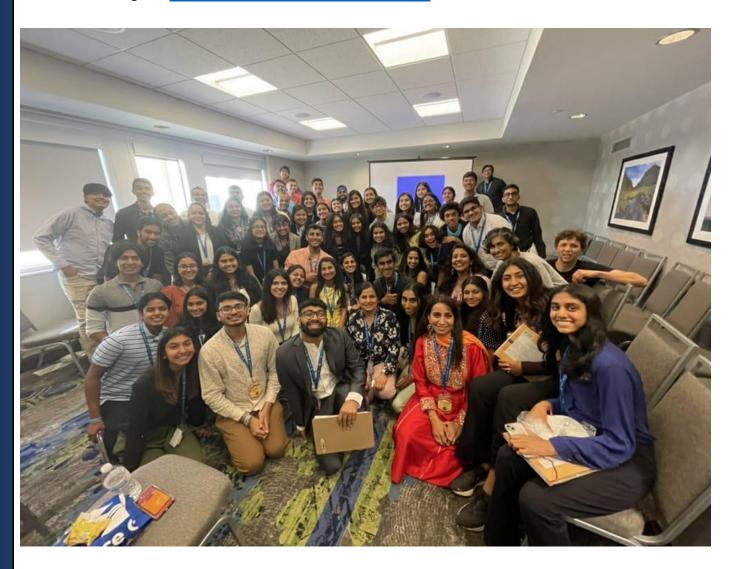
Become a host family: If you live in North America and are willing to help the incoming students then we request you to also send email hostfamily@kojain.com with your contact details.

Kutchi Youth Meet at YJA 2022

From July 1 to July 4, several KOJAIN youth community members attended the 2022 Young Jains of America (YJA) Convention in Dallas, Texas. Aside from taking part in the various YJA convention activities and sessions, about 50 plus Kutchi youth held a formal meeting to get to know each other, provide updates on recent and upcoming events and initiatives of KOJAIN Youths, and listen to ideas on growing and strengthening KOJAIN Youth network.

If you would like to learn more about items discussed at the meeting or how to get involved, don't hesitate to contact us at youthkutchis@gmail.com

Join them on Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/kutchi_youth/



Matrimonial Advertisements

Avani Oswal

Age: 35

City: Milpitas, CA

Education: UCLA, MBA (Wharton) Parents: Hem and Arvind Oswal

Kutch Village: Bidada

Avani is an energetic, ambitious, independent, smart woman who is looking for a kind, open-minded, intelligent and adventurous partner. She does eCommerce

Strategy for an online retailer. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, strength training, podcasts, art galleries, playing board games and traveling with friends.

Contact: avanioswal@gmail.com

https://www.linkedin.com/in/avanioswal/

Parents Contact: 408-464-8317



Chirag Chheda

Age: 28

City: Seattle, WA

Education: MS. Indiana Univ

Parents: Asha & Bhupendra Chheda

Kutch Village: Bhujpur

Chirag has completed his master's from Indiana University and since then has been working in the field

of BI & Analytics. Chirag is passionate about soccer and music. Cooking is also an activity he looks forward to, especially when experimenting with a new recipe/cuisine. Chirag follows a vegan lifestyle.

Chirag is looking for a companion who shares a similar outlook in life, who can be his good friend, and challenge him to be a better version of himself.

Contact: chirag.b.chheda@gmail.com https://www.linkedin.com/in/chiragchheda/ Parents Contact: chhedasha@gmail.com

Darshana Rambhia

Age: 35

City: New York

Education: MBBS, MPH Parents: Bharat Rambhia

Contact:

drdarshu98@gmail.com



Dhawal Dhedhiya

Age: 27

City: Winchester, VA Education: MS - Electrical Parents: Tarlika & Hashmukh

Dhedhiya

Kutch Village: Kotdi Mahadevpuri

Parents Contact: +91-9819703930

https://www.linkedin.com/in/dhawaldedhiya/

Harsh Shah

Age: 28

City: London, Ontario

Education: Bachelor of Engg Parents: Meena & Bhupendra Shah

Kutch Village: Manjal

Currently, I work as a BI Consultant. Planning, prioritization and organization are important elements of my life and I always

have high level goals defined for at least next couple of years. I am grounded in my culture and I immensely respect elders and the family & moral values they imbibe. In my spare time, I love to play board games, ride my bike, go kayaking, meditate, explore naturally scenic places like beaches and treks.

Contact: shah.harsh222@gmail.com https://www.linkedin.com/in/shahharshb/

Parents Contact: +91-9920830561



Heet Chheda

Age: 28

City: Toronto, Ontario Education: B. Arch, Building Information Modeling, Ottawa Parents: Meena & Bhavin Chheda

Kutch Village: Vanki



Working at Ware Malcomb, Toronto as designer since January, 2022. Previously at DesignWorks, Mumbai as Project Architect 2019 - 2021

HOBBIES include Sketching - Caricature - Cricket -Swimming – Travel & Adventure

Contact: heetchheda1993@gmail.com

https://www.linkedin.com/in/heet-chheda-622840158/

Parents Contact: +91-9819196776 chhedabhavin29@gmail.com



Khushboo Manek

Age: 27

City: Troy, MI

Education: MS in ECE, Oakland

Univ, Detroit, MI

Parents: Mukesh Manek

Kutch Village: Nagrecha, Mandvi

Working as manufacturing

quality engineer at BAE Industries, Troy, MI. Hobbies include dancing, painting, music, travelling, cooking and

reading.

Contact: <u>muke</u>shmanek64@gmail.com

https://www.linkedin.com/in/khushboo-manek/



Kulin Chheda

Age: 31

City: Seattle, WA

Education: Master's in Finance

(Boston Univ), CFA

Parents: Kamal & Tarun Chheda Kutch Village: Ratadia Ganesh

A family and career-oriented guy who enjoys Gym, playing cricket, swimming, hiking and watching movies in his past time.



Contact: chhedatarun@yahoo.com

https://www.linkedin.com/in/kulinchheda/

Parents Contact: +91-9821095816

Minal Shah

Age: 33

City: San Jose, CA Education: Master's in Parents: Bina & Jitu Shah



Occupational therapy (UCLA) Kutch Village: Nani Tumbadi Looking for someone who has spent majority of their life in

US (ideally born and raised in the US), is a good blend of Indian and American cultures, values family, loves their job, is self-aware, is extroverted but also a good listener, and has a desire to continue growing and developing (personally and professionally)

Contact: Shahminalj@gmail.com

https://www.linkedin.com/in/minal-shah-4b739333/

Parents Contact: +91-9820820345

Hemen Shah (Visaria)

Age: 27

City: Atlanta, GA

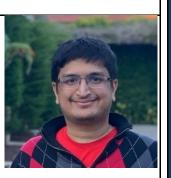
Education: BS, Pursuing MS in

Comp Science

Parents: Dr. Trupti & Narendra

Shah [Visaria]

Kutch Village: Bhachau



Working as an IT Software Development Engineer II in Lexis Nexis in Atlanta, GA. I am currently pursuing my MS in Computer Science from GA Tech. I am a loving, caring male and I am an avid reader, I enjoy music, board games and computer games, and I also enjoy hanging out with family & friends. I am looking for preferably an IT or any Professional, good Jain girl, to stay in US permanently, Veg/Jain, Non-Smoker, Non-Drinker

Contact: NarendraRS@gmail.com

https://www.linkedin.com/in/hemen-shah-a6b2aa7b/

Neesha Daulat

Age: 31

City: Las Vegas/Boston, MA Education: MA – Education, PhD - Positive Organizational

Psychology

Parents: Dipa & Yatin Daulat

Kutch Village: Suthari



Neesha values family, appreciates and loves Indian culture. She is kind, compassionate, loves her job, self-aware, ambitious, and hard-working.

Hobbies: dancing, cooking, singing, exploring new places and foods, spending time with family/friends, watching Bollywood movies, organizing/planning events (Bollywood America, YJA, KOJAIN)

Looking for: someone who has spent majority of their life in US (ideally born and raised in the US), is a good blend of Indian and American cultures, values family, loves their job, is self-aware, is extroverted but also a good listener, and has a desire to continue growing and developing (personally and professionally)

Contact: Yatin.Daulat@gmail.com

https://www.linkedin.com/in/neeshadaulat/

Pratik Nisher

Age: 30

City: Houston, TX

Education: Bachelors in Comp

Science

Parents: Niranjana & Kantilal

Nisher

Kutch Village: Vagada



Looking for a female age 25 to 30, who is educated, US Citizen, and family oriented

Contact: ozlu05656@gmail.com

https://www.instagram.com/pknisher419/

Parent's Contact: 713-423-5005



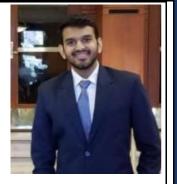
Nishchay Shah

Age: 27

City: Seattle, WA

Education: MS - Comp Science Parents: Rajeshri & Chetan Shah

Kutch Village: Naliya



Looking for well-educated and working partner, a suitable match who is willing to see through each other's dreams together.

Contact: conceptelect1@gmail.com

https://www.linkedin.com/in/nishchay-shah/

Parent's Contact: +91-9820801707

Pooja Poladia

Age: 24

City: Kansas City, KS Education: D Pharm

Parents: Manjula & Vinod

Poladia

Kutch Village: Bidada



Currently pursuing her pharmacy residency in Charleston. She would like to settle in the US in the future.

Contact: Vinodpoladia@yahoo.com

https://www.linkedin.com/in/poojapoladia/

Sagar Vikmani

Age: 28

City: Santa Clara, CA

Education: MS – Comp Science Parents: Beena & Bipin Vikmani

Kutch Village: Bada

Product designer currently in the

Bay Area. Love to travel and be out in nature as much as camping in the couch with some chai and creating illustrations. Passionate about my work and the user experience domain. When not working, you will find me cooking, binging a good thriller show, or smashing shuttles on a badminton court. Looking for someone with similar life views to grow together with

Contact: sagar.vikmani@gmail.com https://www.linkedin.com/in/svikmani/ Parent's Contact: +91-9892545776

Jenil Nandu

Age: 34

City: Eugene, OR

Education: MS - Healthcare

Administration

Parents: Chandan & Hasmukh

Nandu

Kutch Village: Moti Khakhar

Professionally I am Interim

Clinical Supervisor, Rehab Therapist Lead and Physical Therapist. Hobbies/Interests include traveling, being outdoors, playing sports (tennis, golf, soccer), exploring restaurants, cooking, open to trying new hobbies and adventures.

I am looking for life partner - non mangal girl I am ambitious, positive, caring with good communication skills, family oriented, straightforward and honest

Contact: jenil n@icloud.com

https://www.linkedin.com/in/jenil-nandu-81154394/



Tina Lapsia Age: 28

City: New York, NY

Education: JD, Univ of Penn Parents: Jyoti & Prakash Lapsia

Kutch Village: Koday

Tina is ambitious, kind, social, and intelligent. She been working as a litigator in New

York City for nearly 3 years. Tina's hobbies include dancing, watching Bollywood movies, cooking, reading, and

She is looking for a highly educated partner who is willing to settle down in the northeast US, has liberal views and values, enjoys the same or similar hobbies, and will understand and respect her career and lifestyle.

Contact: prakashlapsia@yahoo.com https://www.linkedin.com/in/tinalapsia/

