



Website: [www.kojain.com](http://www.kojain.com)

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Jai Jinendra and Pranam to all my KOJAIN Community members,

On behalf of KOJAIN BOD wishing everyone a very Happy Holiday Season. Hope you all get to spend time with your friends and families this Holiday. May the year 2024 bring peace and prosperity to everyone in the KOJAIN community.



It has been two years since the current BOD took over and as I reflect on the two years, I have sweet memories of events (online and in person) as well as being able to meet, collaborate and discuss with lot of KOJAIN community members.

When current BOD's term started in January 2022, we still had Covid impact and online/zoom session provided an avenue to come together. Some of the highlights of the last 2 year's activities are:

- Focus on youth and encouraged youth online sessions and activities.
- Supported Youth activities like Kutchi youth gathering at YJA, summer retreat to bring youth together in an informal way and form lifelong bonds.
- Launch of matrimonial initiative to provide a platform for matrimonial candidates.
- Regular publication of the Newsletter to provide activity updates from various regions and matrimonial advertisements.
- KOJAIN gathering at JAINA 2023
- Formally opening the registration for the KOJAIN Directory project
- Focus on promoting KOJAIN Scholarship program – participation has increased each year since last 3 years.
- Continued work on reformatting the KOJAIN Loan program for long term sustainability.
- Encouraging more local regional programming to create extended KOJAIN family connections in the community.

All these tasks were possible with help of dedicated BOD members and volunteers who helped with various initiatives and organized regional/local KOJAIN events.

I want to thank everyone in BOD 2022-23 for excellent support and all the KOJAIN community members for giving this term team connect with community. A big thanks to my life partner, Bhavna for walking with me and supporting all of my activities.

Wishing our newly elected president, Bhavini Gada and upcoming BOD team of 2024-25 for a great term and looking forward to KOJAIN continuing to serve our community for many years to come.

Best regards,

Manish Mota

**A humble request to make ensure you and your family members are registered for KOJAIN Directory.**

It is time to collect KOJAIN Community Census!

It is time to update KOJAIN Directory!

It is time to document the growth we have seen in the KOJAIN community in last 10 years.

Our last KOJAIN directory was published in 2013.

Just like government census we are starting the initiative to collect the latest data for all KOJAIN community members residing in North America.

While social media helps us connect with anyone instantly, the benefits of having community data are multifold.

Many of our members benefit from this source of information to connect with friends, while traveling, while looking for host families for international students etc etc.

With the changing times, we are now moving towards an online directory instead of a physical directory.

We are inviting entire KOJAIN community (irrespective of your KOJAIN membership) to register. The KOJAIN Directory data at the end of the registration phase (and verification) will be available for view like a directory to all life members.

We request/urge each KOJAIN family residing in North America to register. Please spread the word and inform your KOJAIN family and friends residing in North America to register.

Even if you submitted your data earlier online or your family data exists in the 2013 directory, we request that you fill the registration form again.

Before you register, please visit this FAQ page <https://kojain.com/registration-faq/> for a quick summary of some of the questions that you might have during registration.

To register your family visit <https://kojain.com/register/>

If you have any questions or encounter technical issues during directory data registration process, please send email to [Directory@kojain.groups.io](mailto:Directory@kojain.groups.io) and we will reach out to you ASAP.

The first year Kutchhi students at Arizona State University (Dharmil Gada, Deep Vora & Harsh Khona) with their host family (Manish & Bhavna Mota) enjoying Holiday Lights around the Scottsdale, AZ



### Remembering “Bai”

Kasturben Khimji Chheda (Gaam: Godhara), fondly known as “Bai” to Kutchhi families in Arizona, her home for last many years passed away at the age of 95 years. She was mother of Kusum Jayanti Savla (AZ), Pravin & Hemant (Toronto), and late Kanti, Jayavanti, Rasila (India). She is also survived by many grandkids and great grandkids. AZ Kutchhi families will remember her smile and presence at community and temple events and her amazing memory of remembering names and reciting many Jain sutras/gathas.



The **SoCal Kutchi community** had a wonderful time at this year's Bollywood-themed Diwali party. Over 150 people attended and had a wonderful time celebrating with family and friends. There was delicious food, a DJ, performances, Bollywood costumes and acts, fun games, activities for kids, a photo booth, music, dance, and more.





## Khatti Meethi Diwali 2023 - KutchValley

Life in the Bay Area is like any other area, always a mix of something sweet and spicy. KutchValley's 22nd Diwali celebration was aptly named Khatti Meethi Diwali: Celebrating 22 Years of Harmonious Contrasts. On Nov 5th, 2023, at the India Community Center in Milpitas about 515 Kutchis attended the daylong event to celebrate Diwali.

150 individuals displayed their diverse creativity on the theme of harmonious contrasts using expressions like old and new, folk and fusion, black and white, love and chaos, joy and sorrow, etc. 3-year-old toddlers to seniors showcased their talent in 11 group performances using the artistic medium of singing, acting and dancing. The captivating drama performance took the audience back in time to the era of Anarkali and the Chhaas Studio troupe left everyone spellbound with their mesmerizing voices. The dance sequences were a visual feast as each performance portrayed a story of contrasts with foot tapping dance numbers, energetic dance moves and creative formations. And adding to this vibrancy, the charismatic teen Emcees flawlessly presented each performance with their infectious energy. **All the performances from Khatti Meethi Diwali can be viewed at [KV Khatti Meethi Diwali 2023 - YouTube](#).**



No Kutchi event can be complete if not accompanied by mouthwatering food and this event was no exception 😊. The celebration kicked off with a breakfast special of Jalebi Fafda. Lunch included a blend of indian, indo-chinese, italian cuisine with 3 appetizers, 4 entrees and 3 desserts. Everyone enjoyed a cup of gourmet ice-cream after the performances finished in the late afternoon. The event concluded with a DJ session that had the audience on their toes dancing to a variety of numbers.



This year's Diwali event was organized by (in alphabetical order) Beleena Veera, Bhanik Shah, Bhavini Gada, Jaikit Savla, Jayesh Gada, Madhavi Khona, Naman Gala, Nitul Haria, and Romil Rambhia. The event would not have been possible without the involvement from several community members who volunteered their time to help with various aspects as well as the leads and participants of stage performances who practiced for multiple weeks to bring creative ideas on stage!







" KutchValley made history on July 29th and 30th by hosting its inaugural sports league, KutchValley League (**KVL 2023**), in the vibrant Bay Area of California. With a core focus on advocating active living and nurturing community involvement, this groundbreaking event showcased five thrilling sports – Men's Cricket, Men's Volleyball, Women's Cricket, Women's Throwball, and Kid's Dodgeball. A whopping 15 teams comprising over 120 players participated in this momentous occasion.

KVL 2023 wasn't just an assembly of sports enthusiasts; it was a testament to the unity within the KV community. It not only promoted an active lifestyle and community bonding but also etched enduring memories for all involved. The event witnessed awe-inspiring displays of athleticism from players and remarkable sportsmanship from every corner.

A staggering count of 120 players engaged across various sports, drawing enthusiastic cheers from a substantial audience of over 325 KV community members. Participants ranged from sprightly 8-year-olds to seasoned seniors at 60, highlighting the inclusivity of the event. It was heartening to witness women taking the field in cricket and throwball, many experiencing these sports for the first time.

Each team flaunted their unique team shirts and showcased their inventive team names like the 'Vayda Victors' and 'Tofani Thunders.' Pre-event practice sessions within teams not only honed skills but also strengthened the sense of community.

The jubilation of the event was augmented by the generous sponsors of KVL, whose unwavering support facilitated complimentary lunches for players, subsidized meals for spectators, free refreshments, ice cream, as well as covering expenses for cricket practices and essential sports equipment. In essence, KVL 2023 transcended beyond a mere sporting event. It served as a catalyst for fortifying social connections, advocating a healthy lifestyle, and fostering a profound sense of camaraderie among the community members.





KVL Organizers were Aditya Oswal, Ainish Lodaya, Harshal Veera, Jaideep Shah, Jayesh Gada, Jenny Dedhia, Monil Nisar, Nilay Chheda, Nitul Haria, Pooja Shah, Romil Rambhia, Saumil Gogri

Website: <https://www.kutchvalley.com/kvl-2023>



### Seattle Diwali gathering

On November 19, 2023, the Seattle KVO committee organized a fun-filled Diwali event attended by around 65+ adults and kids. The event was held on the same day as India's cricket team lost a much-anticipated world cup, but that did not dampen the spirits of the attendees. The event began with a nice lunch, with of course, a medavo. After lunch, the audience was treated to energetic performances by both kids and adults. Later, everyone participated in games and trivia. The event ended with a DJ and dancing until their feet hurt and sleep kicked in.





Dallas (DFW) KOJAIN Community – Diwali Party

About 120 KOJAIN community members from DFW area gathered for the Diwali celebrations.





Atlanta Area – Jalsa Picnic

90+ KOJAIN Region 5 people attended the Sat - Sept 9, 2023, "Jalsa Jalsa" Picnic in the Park in Atlanta, GA. This was a fun-filled event with delicious food, music, and dance.





## KOJAIN KCONJ Annual Diwali Party

Annual Kutchi Diwali Party was held on November 4 in New Jersey. This was attended by over 165 people and was a great success. The party started with Aarti for Laxmi Mata ji and a few kids' performances. Our own DJ Lankesh kept the whole party going with great music for Garba, Dandiya and Bollywood hit songs. The whole event was managed by team of volunteers who took lot of effort in planning and ensuring all had great time at the event. We want to recognize following individuals for their selfless service for this event.

**Photos from NJ Annual Diwali party can be seen at <https://shorturl.at/dxGLZ>**

### Registration Team:

Kinil Doshi, Bhavesh Veera, Shailesh Gala

Creating Evite, Booking the Hall, Sending Messages to the group, Creating budget, Collecting Money, doing all accounts etc...

### Programming & Decoration team:

Dipal Gada, Hetal Shah, Varsha Shah, Shital Veera, Varsha Gala, Shruti Shah, Minal Karani, Omeeta Shah, Anneri

Creating programs, buying and packing return gifts, setting up backdrops, setting up and getting kids involved in Aarti and Games, Arts and Crafts for Kids, MCing the event, ensuring all things go on time etc...

### Food Team:

Chirayu Shah, Deepak Gada, Amar Dedhia, Vishal Dedhia, Dipesh Shah, Bhavesh Veera and many others

Finalizing food vendor and menu, Getting all the supplies, getting food to the venue, Setting up Tables and Food, Ensuring all food is setup, distributed, refilled and ensuring all folks have good time.

### Music & Photo:

DJ Lankesh Haria, Priyank, Dipesh, few others

Amazing Music, Keeping the party going with lot of excitement, Taking photos and videos for the entire event

### LOTS of volunteers who are not listed above:

So many people came to help at the event for setup, program and cleanup. Cleanup was a major effort at the end, and so many people helped to get the place in perfect shape and take away all the extra food.

Lake Party – August 2023

Kutchi friends and families from New England met in Rhode Island at the fifth annual lake party coordinated by Gosar family. Everyone brought an appetizer to share and enjoyed lake activities with summer fun.



Navratri - October 2023

Boston Kutchis together danced to the beats of Raas and Garba at the Navratri event by Gujarati Association. This was the first time where Kutchi friends coordinated to buy tickets together as a group and we are sure this will continue as a yearly tradition.





On November 18th, around 125 New England Kutchis from Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts celebrated Diwali in Auburn, MA. Diwali party is our biggest gala event of the year and is only possible with the amazing team of volunteers. This year's theme was "Rocking Retro" and it was exciting to see how everyone explored their creative ideas to dress up and perform with the theme. The party was filled with entertainment by kids and adults, exciting games, dancing to retro music and delicious food.

**New England Kutchis**  
**Diwali 2023**





On July 9th Sunday, KOJAIN Region 11 - Canada hosted its **annual summer picnic** at Centennial park. Close to 300 members participated in this picnic. Many of the parents visiting from India attended this picnic.

The picnic started around 11.00 am with registration and snacks. There were generous donations from many members. Food and beverages were served throughout the event. Many games for all age groups (5 and above) were arranged. Our enthusiast volunteers ensured these games were age appropriate, so everyone participated. Games were followed by Garba in the park. Everyone including parents enjoyed garba.

A delicious Dinner which included Pav bhaji, Gulab Jamun and Biryani was enjoyed by one and all.

The evening ended with a speech by KOJAIN Regional Director and few announcements on future activities and a Vote of Thanks. All volunteers helped towards making this event a great success.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/cuKCchXHVo51n2Yf6>









**Sagar Vsant Dhedia****Birthyear:** 1985**Height:** 5'8"**Parents:** Jaya & Vasant Dhedia**Village:** Deshalpur

I have completed my Master's in Software Engineering from San Jose State University.

Currently, I'm working as a staff software engineer at eBay in San Francisco, CA.

I like traveling and meeting new people, biking, running, playing sports, and binge-watching series.

Looking for someone understanding, confident, who has a positive outlook, and who likes to travel.

Email: sagar.dhedia@gmail.com

Parent's contact: +91 9821262552

**Chintan Rajesh Lodaya****Birthyear:** 1997**Height:****Parents:** Late Mrs. Neena & Rajesh Lodaya**Village:** Suthri

I am Chintan and I am living in Dallas, Texas. I graduated from University of North Texas,

finishing my second masters in August of 2022. I am working as a Systems Analyst in Dallas. My weekend plan includes playing soccer, riding bike in one of many parks and hanging with my friends. I am looking for a girl whose thinking and ideology matches mine. One is outgoing, joyful, enjoys exploring new places and things. I am a vegetarian and would like her to be Jain and/or vegetarian. Phone: 510-896-0225

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/chintanlodaya/>

**Nikhil Vasanti Nagda****Age:** 38**Parents:** Jaya & Vasanti Nagda**Village:** Sanosara

I have completed my master's in human resources and presently work with Definity Insurance as a IT Recruiter and HR systems

Implementer in Toronto, Canada. I am originally from Mumbai and would prefer someone who is presently in North America.

I enjoy playing badminton, hiking, waterfront/ lakeshore walks, tv shows, board games, dance, music and movies. I am looking for someone is willing to live in Toronto, is a bit ambitious, educated, caring, modern and cultural values as well as family oriented.

Contact details: +1-647-979-5953; nvnikhil@gmail.com  
Visanti Nagda (Father) : +1-647-509-5953

**Gaurav Nilesh Shah****Age:** 29**Parents:** Nita & Nilesh Anandji Shah (Nagda)**Village:** Kotdi Mahadevpuri

I have completed master's in financial engineering from NYU. I am currently working as VP at Citibank, New York and reside in

Jersey City, NJ. I enjoy running, hiking, watching movies and spending time with family. Looking for well-educated partner who believes in shared culture and values.

[www.linkedin.com/in/gauravnshah/](http://www.linkedin.com/in/gauravnshah/)

[shahgaurav@live.com](mailto:shahgaurav@live.com)



**Tina Lapsia****Age:** 29**Height:** 5' 3"**Parents:** Jyoti & Praksah Lapsia**Village:** Koday

We are looking for a suitable match for our daughter Tina Lapsia. Tina is ambitious, kind, social, and intelligent. She holds a JD from the University of Pennsylvania Law School and has been working as a litigator for 4 years. Tina's hobbies include dancing, watching Bollywood movies, cooking, reading, and traveling. 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.

Email: [prakashlapsia@yahoo.com](mailto:prakashlapsia@yahoo.com)**Hemen Narendra Shah****Age:** 28**Height:** 5' 8"**Parents:** Dr. Trupti & Narendra Ramjibhai Waghjibhai Shah [Visaria]**Village:** Bhachau

I have completed master's in computer science from GA Tech. I am currently working as software engineer at LexisNexis at **Atlanta, GA**.

I enjoy reading, photography, listening to music, puzzles, board games, computer games, going out with family and friends. Prefer USA based good Jain girl, IT Software Engineer Professional, Age 26 or less, Veg/Jain, Non-Smoker, Non-Drinker

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/hemen-shah-a6b2aa7b/><https://www.facebook.com/hemen.shah.12>[NarendraRS@gmail.com](mailto:NarendraRS@gmail.com)**Mausam Shah****Age:** 24**Parents:** Kavita & Vijay Shah**Village:** Merau, Bidada

I am currently pursuing an MS in Marketing Intelligence at Fordham University, NYC. I enjoy exploring new restaurants and cafes, biking, fashion designing, and watching comedy and thriller shows, among other things. I also love playing table tennis, billiards, and board games. Ideally, I prefer someone between the ages 24-26 (1996-1998) who is patient, kind, ambitious, funny, and respectful. I am a vegetarian and would prefer someone who follows a similar diet.

**Parents Whatsapp:** +91 9886765981, **Call** +1-669-338-9517Email: [kavitaarvi@gmail.com](mailto:kavitaarvi@gmail.com)**Kinjal Arvind Gala****Birthyear:** 1992**Height:** 5'**Parents:** Asha & Arvind Gala**Village:** Chassara

I am currently working as a Senior Consultant at Arborsys Group located in New Jersey after completing my master's in information systems. I like to

read, dance, listen to music and explore new places.

I am looking for a partner who is ambitious, supportive, shares similar values and is family oriented.

Phone: +1 631-359-6314, Email: [kgala92@gmail.com](mailto:kgala92@gmail.com), Mother's Phone: +91 9702439897LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/kinjal-gala](https://www.linkedin.com/in/kinjal-gala)**Priyanka Savla****Age:** 26**Parents:** Preethi & Tushar Savla**Village:** Samagoga

I am currently pursuing my master's degree in computer science. I am naturally calm and patient. I enjoy going out to do something adventurous, such as hiking or swimming, or something relaxing, such as going for a walk or watching the sunset.

[savlapriyanka96@gmail.com](mailto:savlapriyanka96@gmail.com)<https://www.linkedin.com/in/priyanka-savla/>Parents: +91 9866781617, email: [tsavla63@gmail.com](mailto:tsavla63@gmail.com)

If any eligible matrimonial candidate would like to become a member of KOJAIN Matrimonial WhatsApp group, please visit <https://kojain.com/matrimonial/> for signup details.