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Vice President: Deepak Gada	1	President's Message
201-888-0269   <u>dlgada@gmail.com</u>		Llink Cabaal Marit Cabalarahin 2024
Secretary: Dimple Dedhia	2	High School Merit Scholarship 2024
669-241-4433   pinkybitushah@yahoo.com	3	Region 2: Badminton, Sakhi, Cha Gau, Walkathon, Active
Treasurer: Narendra Shah		Circle
404-604-7251   <u>narendrars@gmail.com</u> Regional Directors	4	Region 4: Community Service Award, Obituary: Neena Gada
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Shekhar Shah, 480-717-9657	5	Region 6: Wedding :Neha-Nikunj, Graduation: Parth Haria
shahshekhar@gmail.com	6	Region 7: Remembering Rashmi Mayur
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Region 5: AL, FL, GA, MS, TN Open		
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Region 11: Canada		
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bhavesh.kshah@yahoo.ca		
Past President: Manish Mota, 602-363-6145		

Youth Coordinator: Janak Shah, 339-234-1023

Jai Jinendra & Pedaam,

As flowers are starting to blooming everywhere, the onset of spring season brings a sense of joy and rejuvenation with mother nature showcasing a magical carpet similar to the burst of Holi colors.

Hope everyone is looking forward to fostering more connections through KOJAIN events and also during in-person meetups in your region. As you gear up for more outdoor activities, please remember to stay safe and also our responsibility towards mother nature.



I would like to extend my gratitude to all those who have completed the directory registration. A heartfelt thanks to all our dedicated volunteers who have been spending many hours reaching out to individuals to facilitate this substantial undertaking. If you haven't filled out the registration form yet, I encourage you to participate before April 15th. Your contribution is invaluable to us - <u>https://kojain.com/register/</u>

This year, we've introduced some new initiatives. In February, we launched a virtual series starting with a lively, engaging quiz on Kutch. It was great to interact with fellow Kutchis and share nostalgic memories about Kutch. The next session is focused towards Women's Health. We aim to offer a diverse range of informative, learning-focused, and entertaining sessions to connect KOJAIN members across North America. Your valuable suggestions for speakers or content are highly welcomed.

The cruise trip in July with fellow KOJAIN members has garnered enthusiastic participation. The planning team is exploring additional activities for members to enjoy alongside the planned cruise events. If you have completed your cruise registration but not yet part of the WhatsApp group for cruise members, please do reach out to us.

Our <u>matrimonial</u> program continues to attract new candidates, and the eagerly anticipated merit scholarship application for high school seniors is now open. The matrimonial team is discussing virtual meetups for the candidates. The KOJAIN Board of Directors extends heartfelt gratitude to all our dedicated volunteers who have lent their support to these diverse activities. It is through these volunteer efforts and support, we make these activities more successful.

The fundraising efforts for the sold out Memorial weekend Youth retreat led by our youth members are truly inspiring, and the support from our community is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continued encouragement and involvement with the youths.

Regards,

Bhavini Gada

# KOJAIN Scholarship 2024

A one time KOJAIN Merit Scholarship is awarded to North American High School graduating qualified students, entering college/university to pursue further studies. Parents of applicants must be Life Members of KOJAIN. Up to 3 scholarships worth \$1000 each will be offered.

KOJAIN is soliciting applications for the 2024 Merit Scholarship. The application submissions dates are from April 1, 2024 to May 31, 2024. Eligibility Criteria and submission requirements for the Scholarship are listed below:

# Please note:

• Applicants will be notified of Judges' decision by the 1<sup>st</sup> week of July 2024.

• The list of winners will be published in the upcoming quarterly issue of KOJAIN newsletter.

• The KOJAIN Scholarship program is administered by the scholarship committee appointed by the KOJAIN Board of Directors and is made possible by KOJAIN members' tax-deductible contribution to the KOJAIN scholarship fund.

## Eligibility Criteria:

• Graduating High School seniors planning to attend an accredited college or university full-time in the fall of 2024.

- Applicant whose parents are KOJAIN Life Members.
- Grade point average of at least 3.0 on an unweighted 4.0 scale.

## Your application must contain the following:

1. Submit an unofficial 4-year high school transcript, including the 2023-2024 school year. Photocopies are acceptable.

2. Copies of American College Testing (ACT) or Scholastic Aptitude Testing (SAT), or any other entrance examination scores.

3. List and briefly describe any extracurricular services and activities. Please provide enough information so that the selection committee will understand the nature of your services and activities.

4. Photograph of your face (head and shoulders only) in .jpg format.

5. Essay Requirements & Topics are given below.

## Essay:

Write a 500 word essay in which you develop your point of view on any one of the topics presented below. Support your position with reasoning and examples taken from your readings, studies, experiences, or observations.

# Essay Topics:

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.

2. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?

3. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.

# Where to send your application:

Upload your documents and essay by using the following Google Forms link: https://forms.gle/1FAIpQLSc4

## Badminton tournament

KutchValley had its first Badminton Tournament on 10th/11th March 2024 at Happy Birdie, Fremont. The community



responded enthusiastically by starting practice sessions a month before the tournament. The format included Mixed Doubles, Women's Doubles/Singles, Men's Doubles/Singles and Kids tournaments. About 82 people participated in the tournament. The players doubled up as referees and linesmen when they were not playing. Since Women's Day was a day earlier, a cake was also cut by all the women to celebrate the occasion. Players were wearing black/white clothing as per the theme. The winners and runners-up who were all drenched out by the time they reached the end were given prizes in each category. Many thanks to Avani Vora and Rushabh

Shethia for taking the lead in organizing the badminton tournament.





## Satte Pe Sakhi

The Sunday afternoon of 17th March 2024 for Bay Area KutchValley Sakhis was filled with laughter, camaraderie, and memorable moments as they met for a **Satte Pe Sakhi** event in Fremont, CA. This event was a blend of satto pees card game, delicious food, and lively conversations that made a delightful gathering indeed. The planning team's dedication and effort in organizing such a successful event with a creative idea, selecting venue, and curating the menu surely contributed to the enjoyment of 106 attendees who dressed up in red, white and black as they symbolized the card colors.





Winners were declared in various categories such as Max Total Games Won, 7 Games Won, 12 hands in any Game, 6 consecutive Games Lost and Max Total game lost. Winners exemplified skill, perseverance, and perhaps a touch of luck in the world of card games.



## \* Cha Gau Bhaav Yatra Cooking



On March 23rd 2024 KutchValley community of Bay Area had the privilege of seva in the form of cooking for the grand occasion of Chha Gau Siddhachal ji Bhaav Yatra (Fagun Sud 13) at Jain Center of Northern California in Milpitas.

Our cooking service was led by our very own Hasmukh Patel who has been selflessly serving the community with his cooking skills since a very long time. Our team of volunteers consisted of approximately 30 people including 6 year olds to 80 year old seniors who relentlessly and tirelessly worked from 5am in the morning to 3pm in the

afternoon to help accomplish the monumental task of cooking for about 1900 people.

Under Hasmukhbhai's leadership, the team cooked a special menu consisting of Palitana Bhel, Moong, Pulao, Mohanthal, Kesar Masala Chai and Limbu Pani for various Paal. The prep work involved various tasks of washing, cutting veggies for Palitana Bhel, boiling moong, Chai and Kadhi, cooking rice in multiple batches and sauteing veggies for Pulao and freshly roasting the ingredients for Mohanthal.

Additionally, theplas and dryfruit was contributed by various Jain community members.

It was a heartwarming experience to cook for the community while achieving all this with zero waste.





# Walkathon 2024

KutchValley had its 5th year of Walkathon on Sunday Mar 24th, 2024 at Lake Elizabeth, Fremont CA.

With about 85 participants, ranging from energetic kids on their bikes to active seniors gathered near the lakeshore, with high spirits especially after the original date had to be rescheduled due to rains.

As the event kicked off, the group engaged in a series of stretching exercises, to warm up their muscles and prepare for the walk ahead. A big Thank you to Active circle for bringing a professional athlete to demonstrate and explain the importance of stretches.

With the lush green hills in the background, the 2.1 mile loop around serene Lake Elizabeth was buzzing with energy and enthusiasm.

One of the most heartwarming aspects of the walkathon was the intergenerational bonding that took place and the support from the community for a simple act of walking together.





## Active Circle : An inspiring journey

Imagine two middle schoolers with a big dream: to create positive change in their communities. That dream, born in May 2020, is now a thriving 501(c)3 registered non-profit organization called Active Circle, founded by Aanya Shah and Nivriti Vira. Now high schoolers, their passion for empowering communities and transforming lives is truly inspiring. Their mission is to create Active Connected Communities.

They believe that a socially connected community is the key to overcoming physical and mental health challenges. Their innovative approach through their platform provides opportunities to create or participate in group activities, fostering a sense of social bonding, belonging, and well-being.

A Track Record of Success Their events showcase their diverse and impactful approach to creating change in their community. From a Healthy Relationships Walk and Talk in partnership with Narika, to a Virtual Walkathon with ASK Consulting and an Exercise is Medicine Webinar with the South Asian Heart Center, Active Circle tackles a wide variety of issues. They've even hosted other fitness and engaging community events like a Bombay Jam Session, Yoga in the Park, Heart Health Webinar, Teen Dating Violence Awareness Webinar, and multiple Beach/Park Cleanups. Currently, one of the upcoming events is an all inclusive potluck picnic for the Special Ed Kids and Parent Community.

**Partnerships Propelling Progress** Active Circle doesn't do it alone. They've built a network of strong partnerships with organizations like the Girl Scouts of Northern California, the Khushiyaan Foundation in India, South Asian Heart Center, Narika, MyTrailPals for monthly teen hikes, and even corporations like ASK Consulting and many more in the pipeline. These partnerships allow them to amplify their reach and impact.

**More Than Events: Making a Difference** Their dedication doesn't stop at events. Active Circle has raised an impressive \$1676 for No Kid Hungry through a walkathon with ASK Staffing and \$2,000 for the Khushiyaan Foundation to aid India during the COVID crisis through their Bombay Jam session.

**Award-Winning Inspiration** Their efforts haven't gone unnoticed. Active Circle has been recognized with prestigious awards like the First Lego League Motivational Award, the Girl Scouts Silver Award, and both the Santa Clara and Cupertino Mayoral Awards.



Active Circle: A Call to Action Active Circle is a shining example of what young people can achieve when fueled by passion and purpose. Their story is a call to action for us all. Visit their website, <u>https://www.theactivecircle.org</u>, to learn more about their events, partnerships, and how you can get involved.

**Inspired to take action?** High schoolers across the US can reach out to Aanya and Nivriti at activeantcircle@gmail.com to create their local chapters of Active Circle. Local chapters can leverage the Active Circle platform to host their own events and fundraisers. The founders of Active Circle are passionate about helping others and are happy to brainstorm ideas for creating community events that will foster mental and physical health in your area. Together, we can make a difference, one active step at a time and create more active connected communities

\*\* Regional News: Region 4 \*\*

Community Service Award to Ram Gada



Ram Gada (Gaam: Bada) received community service award from India Association of Minnesota (IAM) for his lifetime contribution during IAM 50th Anniversary Celebration on 1st Dec 2023.

# Obituary : Neena Gada (1942-2024)

Neena Gada (*1942-2024*) passed away on January 6, 2024 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Wife of Ram Gada (Bada) since 1967, sister of KP Gala (Samagoga), Fui of Tushar Gala (Boston).

Founding member of School of India for Languages and Culture (SILC) in 1979,

Vice President of India Association of Minnesota (IAM) in 1983-85),

Founding Member of Minnesota Asian Indian Democratic Association ( MAIDA) in 1994,

Founding Member of Asian Indian Women Association (AIWA) in 1996, Ambassador of India heritage and culture, youth and women empowerment. Her Life Celebration happened in Mumbai on February 4 and in Minneapolis on March 9.



# \*\* Regional News: Region 6 \*\*

#### Neha weds Nikunj

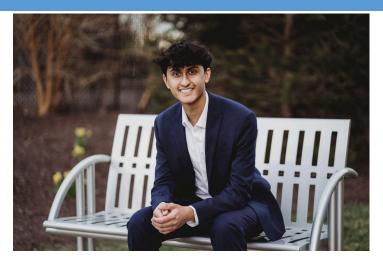


With hearts overflowing with joy and gratitude, we, Beena and Kishor Vora (Owensboro KY, Gaam - Moti Khakhar), the proud parents of Neha wish to share the blissful union of our beloved daughter with Nikunj son of Dhanvanti and Haresh Gala(Vasai, Maharashtra, Gaam - Bhojay) on 26th January 2024 at Mumbai, Maharashtra, India.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all our relatives, friends, and well-wishers who graced the occasion with their presence, showering blessings upon the bride and groom.

#### Congratulations to Parth Haria

We are proud to announce that *Parth Haria*, son of Dr. Dhiren and Priti Haria (Gaam - Bidada) will be graduating from Daviess County High School, Owensboro KY. He will be attending University of Louisville this fall at their 8 year direct medical program.



# \*\* Regional News: Region 7 \*\*

## Remembering Rashmi Mayur

In the memory of the 20<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of:

# Dr. Rashmi Mayur, a Crusader for the Sacred Earth: An Icon and a Legend: By Dr. Kumudini Mayur

Washington, D.C., February 10, 2024: *"I seldom recognized why I was here for the time passed like a second. My life was too fast as if it was a legend,"* wrote Dr. Rashmi Mayur prophetically in **"Poetry of Life,"** his last collection of writings, which he wrote while he was recovering from a stroke in Mumbai, India.

On February 10, 2004, his life passed like a brilliant flash of light from here into the universe – perhaps on a more spectacular mission. In another context he wrote, "*I am searching for new ways to find the future in the universe of tomorrow.*"

Two decades have passed since Dr. Rashmi Mayur (Gaam: Talwana) left this abode to be somewhere in his quest in this universe. While he was amongst us, he was ahead of his time. In the early 20th century, he was amongst very



few, to have transcended borders to pursue his studies in the USA. After receiving his Ph.D. from the US, he never stopped his nomadic journeys all over the planet, talking about Mother Earth.

He frantically lectured all over the world about saving this Planet and the fleeting nature of human existence. He was a pioneer, a very early global advocate for Earth's preservation - to talk about sustainability, pollution, population, food shortages and more. He knew Nature was an entangled web that we have to preserve if we have to survive on this planet.

Dr. Rashmi Mayur's visionary insights resonate as we look at the state of the world today in the form of climate change, a consequence of human actions as manifested in wildfires, floods, cyclones and lots of extreme events causing huge losses of lives around the world. His early warnings, such as foreseeing conflicts over water echo in the current world's challenges.

# Dr. Mayur's dream was: "We can hope that what we do makes a difference, that we can build our Earth from our fondest dreams and visions."

He further urged in earnest, "Our purpose is to dedicate our lives to regenerating the Earth and building a new human order. A new Earthly order where every child, – no matter where – will experience joyful existence, happiness in unity with the universe, and the ecstasy of being a pilgrim in the eternal march of evolution. If we devote our common energies to our common future, then we cannot fail to realize our hopes."

He had envisioned a harmonious Earth built on dreams, for which he received numerous accolades. His poignant and compassionate words resonate today as a call to unite in safeguarding our only abode, our only home before we destroy it.

Dr. Rashmi Mayur, my iconic brother, is deeply remembered by his family and friends. Dr. Kumudini Mayur (**kmayurk@gmail.com**), the sister of Dr. Rashmi Mayur, is based in Washington, D. C. metro area.

## \* NJ Kutchi Carrom and Chess Tournament

On March 16th, members of the Kutchi community in NJ gathered for their inaugural Carrom and Chess tournament. The event drew over 60 participants, spanning ages 4 to 55+. The tournament featured three Carrom categories: Mens, Womens, and Kids, along with two Chess categories: Kids and Mens.

In the Carrom competition, Mens and Womens divisions were split into two groups, with three teams each engaging in round-robin matches. The top four teams advanced to the Semi Finals and the finals were played in a best-of-three format, both resulting in close 2-1 victories.

For Kids Chess, participants were organized into four groups of three, with the top player from each group advancing to the semi Finals. The final match was fiercely contested, lasting over an hour and ending in a stalemate, with the winner determined by points remaining on the board.

In Men's Chess, four individuals competed in a round-robin format, with each match proving highly competitive and lasting over half an hour. The overall winner was determined by the results of the round-robin matches.

Even the youngest participants, aged 5 and under, were entertained by dedicated Kids volunteers with various board games throughout the event.

Overall, the tournament provided five hours of non-stop family fun, featuring games, activities, food, and music from 1 pm to 6 pm.

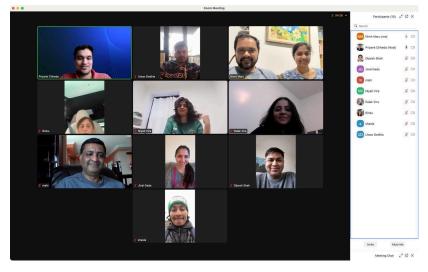
Game	Winner	Runners-Up
Mens Carrom	Jiten Dedhia and Sagar Visaria	Denny Dedhia and Hermish Shah
Womens Carrom Dipal Gada and Dimple Shah		Hetal Shah and Bhavna Malde
Kids Carrom Medhansh Shah and Reyansh Dedhia		Kush Chheda and Charvi Dedhia
Kids Chess Paarth Vira		Kaavish Gangar
Mens Chess	Matthew Shah	Gaurav Chheda

Click below for links to Pictures and Videos of the Event

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1n22nu4RJKEvXU37fjJbLyPeVYzWQTZ3T?usp=sharing

## • Two Vibrant Kutchi Community Events in NY

The Kutchi community in New York had two memorable events in 2024 so far, making a vibrant restart of our group. **January**: Group Virtual Chit-Chat



A kick off meeting that was hosted online. In this event everyone shared stories, backgrounds and experiences being a Kutchi. A couple of them discovered they had studied at the same college in Mumbai.

## February: Group Dinner

Location: At the home of Hiren & Rinku The event was a long and cozy affair, all thanks to the lovely family warmly welcoming us into their home. Everyone savored the lip-smacking desi food , special thanks for considering dietary preferences. We exchanged stories, discussed history and got to know each other closely. It was a great evening for everyone.





We invite all New York Kutchis to join us in future gatherings and our WhatsApp group! Please contact **Priyank Chheda** (+13133984860) to get added to NY Kutchis whatsApp group.

## \*\* Other News \*\*

## \* K3 KACHCHHI YouTube Channel

K3 KACHCHHI is a YouTube Channel started by a few Kachchhis to help promote Kachchh and the language. K3 stands for Kalam, Kala & Kalakar (Literature, Art & Artist). This channel is for KACHCHHI talents of all age groups, those interested in presenting their art in literature, poems, songs, storytelling, drama, mono-acting, handicraft, Kachchh tourism vlogs, etc. New artists are always welcome and age doesn't matter. We have a professional, experienced team to help you bring out your special talent.

Over the past few months, various videos have been posted on the channel with varied topics such as Jain stories, Kachchhi Songs, Poems, Motivational videos, etc. Be sure to check them out! Join the YouTube channel and fall in love with our Kachchh again! YouTube Link - www.youtube.com/@K3Kachchhi Contributors & Core Team :

- SUNIL VISHRANI, Creative Head, Film & TV actor, Writer & Director
- MUKESH DEDHIA "Manav", Technical Head, Visualizer, Cinematographer, Director, Editor
- HARESH GALA, Literature lover, Narrator, PRO
- URVI SAVLA, Anchor, Narrator, Marketing Head

Channel contact email: <u>k3kachchhi@gmail.com</u>

# \*\* KOJAIN Matrimonial Candidates \*\*

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.

## Hemen Narendra Shah Age: 28 Height: 5' 8" Parents: Dr. Trupti & Narendra Ramjibhai Waghjibhai Shah [Visaria] Village: Bhachau

## Brief Intro:

US Citizen [In USA since 2006].

Data Engineer – Sonnen Inc. (Atlanta, GA, USA).

Education: BS - Computer Science - GA Tech [2016] **Diet**: Vegetarian/Jain, Non-Smoker, Non-Drinker, No Drugs, No Vices.

Nature: Introvert, Smart, Helpful, Introvert, Family Oriented, Avid Reader.

Hobbies: Avid Reader, Board Games, Computer Games, Puzzles, YouTube Videos, Hanging out with family & friends.

# Partner Preference:

Introvert, Smart, Family Oriented, Atlanta/USA/Canada based good Jain girl, [Vegetarian/Jain Diet, Non-Smoker, Non-Drinker, No Drugs, No Vices] LinkedIn/FB Links:

https://www.linkedin.com/in/hemen-shah-a6b2aa7b/ https://www.facebook.com/hemen.shah.12 Email address: NarendraRS@gmail.com

Nishit Rajesh Savla Age: 32 Heiaht: 5' 8" Location: Seattle. WA (Open to relocate) Parents: Kalpana & Rajesh Narshi Savla

Brief Intro: I am a software developer at Amazon, I have been in the USA for

7 years. I am on an H1B Visa with an approved i140. Apart from work, I like hiking, dancing, traveling and playing sports. I am looking for someone who is honest, can communicate things and can support me in tough times.

# LinkedIn/FB Profile links:

https://www.linkedin.com/in/nishit-savla Email: nishitsavla29@gmail.com



## Nikhil Vasanji Nagda Aae: 38 City: Toronto, ON

Parents: Jaya & Visanji Nagda

Education: Bachelors of Management Studies, Masters and Post Graduate in HRM

Village: Sanosara, Kutch

Brief Intro: Never married. I work as a Recruiter and HR

Systems Implementer for an insurance company. Grew up in Bombay and spent the last 12 yrs in Toronto. Balanced combination of modern and cultural values including spending time on activities like Dancing, music, investing, business reading and swimming.

Looking for someone who would be willing to live in Toronto having open minded, engaging conversations, zeal to live life and a bit ambitious.

## LinkedIn/FB Links: https://www.linkedin.com/in/nvnikhil Contact: nikhil.nagda@gmail.com; +1-647-979-5953 Parents Contact: +1-647-509-5953

Yash Jignesh Maiseri Age: 27 years **Height** : 6' 3" Location : Seattle WA Nationality/Visa : H1B, I-140 Approved Parents : CA Jignesh & Hiral Maiseri, Ahmedabad Village : Moti Sindhodi



# Brief Intro: I have completed

my Master's in Computer Science from New York University. Currently working as Senior Software Engineer (Cyber Security) at Pinterest, Seattle WA. I am very ambitious, enjoy reading, hiking and traveling. Looking for a partner who is well educated and believes in sharing similar values and cultures. Email : yashshah96@gmail.com

Whatsapp# + 1-347-722-5928

Linkedin : https://www.linkedin.com/in/yash-j-shah/ Parents: +91 9824026097, +91 9824398647 Email: hiral@jvsconsulting.com

Mausam Shah Age: 25 City: New York City / Jersey City Education: MS in Marketing Intelligence, Fordham University NYC, Dec 2023 BS in Business Analytics and Information Technology and BS in



Marketing, Rutgers Business School NJ, 2020 International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program, Greenwood High International School, Bangalore

**Parents**: Vijay and Kavita Shah, Milpitas, CA, USA **Village**: Merau

**Brief Intro**: Mausam is ambitious, thoughtful, and adventurous. She enjoys exploring new restaurants and cafes, biking, fashion designing, and table tennis, among other things. Ideally, she prefers someone between the ages 25-28 (1996-1998) who is patient, kind, ambitious, and open to trying new things. She is a vegetarian and would prefer someone who follows a similar diet.

E-mail: contactmausamshah@gmail.com Parents' contact: Kavita Shah - Call +1-669-338-9517, Whatsapp - +91 9886765981 Email: kavitaurvi@gmail.com Priyanka Savla Age: 27 Height: 5' 4" Location: Maryland

Parents: Preethi & Tushar Savla

**Brief Intro**: I have completed my Master's degree and am currently employed as a Software Developer. During my leisure time, I enjoy reading books, traveling, watching sitcoms, cooking,



and staying active through workouts. I cherish intellectual conversations and spontaneous adventures. Looking for a smart, honest, and grounded individual who shares my zest for life and values.

## LinkedIn/FB Profile links:

https://www.linkedin.com/in/priyanka-savla/ Email: priyankas@vt.edu