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<b>Region 9:</b> NY	<b>Priyank Chheda</b> , 313-398-4860 <a href="mailto:chhedapriyank@gmail.com">chhedapriyank@gmail.com</a>
<b>Region 10:</b> CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT	<b>Renu Vora</b> , 203-559-8734 <a href="mailto:renuvora2002@yahoo.com">renuvora2002@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Region 11:</b> Canada	<b>Bhupesh Dedhia</b> , 905-301-0636 <a href="mailto:bhupeshdedhia@gmail.com">bhupeshdedhia@gmail.com</a>
<b>Past President</b>	<b>Manish Mota</b> , 602-363-6145
<b>Youth Coordinator</b>	<b>Mehal Gala</b> , 267-893-9594

### # Topics

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## President's Message

Pedam,

Spring is here, bringing fresh energy and a sense of new beginnings across our community! And it's truly exciting to see the momentum building across so many areas.

We kicked off the year with our virtual session on learning to practice Meditation. It was a powerful session led by Hemal Gala.

The Constitution & By-Laws Review Committee is now in motion and making thoughtful progress to help guide our organization's future. Please remember to take action for address verification as detailed further in this newsletter.



Applications for the much-awaited 2026 high school merit scholarships will open on **April 1st**. Am very grateful to the scholarship team for their proactive communication and providing this amazing service to the community.

Am also thrilled to share continued success stories emerging from the Matrimonial activity. And what could be more beautiful than a chance to experience a wedding in the SF Bay Area that originated from our KOJAIN matrimonial group. Congratulations to both the families and wishing Urja & Parin a very Happy Married life.

The recognition awards committee will be sending the applications for award nomination soon. Stay tuned for more details on recognition nomination.

Our KYA team has had multiple meetups this quarter and whether its dinner, hike or a retreat, it is creating wonderful opportunities for new connections and leadership among the next generation. A huge shout out to our youth leaders for their incredible energy.

And of course, the highlight of all **Sammelan 2026** is shaping up to be an incredible, high-energy event you won't want to miss! Last few spots left, so don't wait for too long to register. Lastly, I would also like to request to consider a donation for Sammelan if you are able to and make this a memorable event for all.

Can't wait to see you all this July in New Jersey!

Bhavini Gada

President | KOJAIN 2026-27



## Update Your Address for 2026 Amendment Vote

The KOJAIN Constitution and By-laws were initially approved by good-standing KOJAIN members in **1995**, with a single amendment made in **2003**.

In **October 2025**, the KOJAIN Board of Directors established a Constitution and By-laws Committee (Ram Gada, Manish Mota, Dimple Dedhia, Pallavi Dedhia, Nimesh Chheda) to review the existing Constitution and By-laws and recommend updates, as our community has continued to evolve alongside changes in technology, communication methods, and has grown in the last 25 years.

As part of the Constitution and By-laws committee's initial review, one minor amendment is being proposed to reflect current communication practices used by KOJAIN and to streamline the process for future amendments to the Constitution and By-laws.

All good-standing KOJAIN members will receive this proposed amendment via a mail-in ballot in April/May 2026. Good-standing members for this proposed amendment will be Life members and Annual/Biennial members as of **April 1st 2026**.

Action Items for good-standing KOJAIN members (Deadline: **April 10th 2026**)

1. If already Registered with KOJAIN: Log in to the [KOJAIN Directory](#) and verify your postal mailing address.
  2. If Not Registered with KOJAIN: Create your profile at [kojain.com/register](http://kojain.com/register) and ensure your address is accurate.
- Your participation ensures KOJAIN continues to evolve alongside our technology and community needs.



## 2026 High School Merit Scholarship

**A onetime 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. Three \$1000 scholarships will be offered.**

KOJAIN is soliciting applications for the 2026 Merit Scholarship.

The application submissions dates are from **April 1, 2026 to May 31, 2026.**

Eligibility Criteria and submission requirements for the Scholarship are listed below:

### **Please note:**

- Applicant will be notified of Judges' decision by the 1st week of July 2026. •

A list of winners will appear on the KOJAIN website at [kojain.com](http://kojain.com) and will be published in the September 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 fulltime in the fall of 2026.
- 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 2025-2026 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. A brief description of yourself and your academic goals including where you will be attending college.
6. Essay Requirements & Topics are given below.



## 2026 High School Merit Scholarship

### 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:

[2026 KOJAIN Scholarship Application](#)

## 2026 KOJAIN Sammelan Update



We are excited to share a quick update on **KOJAIN Sammelan 2026, July 24-26 in NJ**. Over the past few months, teams across the country have been working tirelessly, and the energy building around this year's Sammelan has been truly incredible. We are now nearly at capacity, with fewer than 30 spots remaining.

If you are planning to attend, we strongly encourage you to secure your spot soon - [sammel.an.kojain.com](http://sammel.an.kojain.com)

**Programming** This year, we have curated 50+ sessions designed for all age groups and interests.

From wellness and spirituality to professional growth and Kutchi culture, the lineup reflects the diversity and strength of our community. You can expect sessions on:

- Health & wellness (yoga, pranayama, nutrition, mental health)
- Career, business, and financial growth
- Kutchi heritage, storytelling, and arts
- Interactive workshops, debates, music, and dance
- Youth-led innovation, including initiatives like teaching AI to speak Kutchi

Alongside this, we will have a powerful keynote session and large community experiences like Kutchi Milan, Family Feud, and live performances.

**Evening Programming** Our nights will bring the community together through music and celebration, featuring:

- A globally recognized Gujarati folk artist
- DJ Umang, delivering a high-energy modern experience
- Dhaval Kamdar, known for his engaging live performances

**Hospitality & Souvenir** Our teams are creating a memorable experience through curated hospitality and a Sammelan souvenir book that highlights our stories, families, and shared journey. If you would like to be featured or share a story, please reach out to: [kojain2026souvenir@gmail.com](mailto:kojain2026souvenir@gmail.com)



## 2026 KOJAIN Sammelan Update

**Volunteers** Our volunteer team has already grown to 80+ individuals working across all areas of Sammelan. We are now looking to onboard 100 more volunteers to help bring this vision to life. If you or someone you know would like to get involved, please reach out to: [kojain2026volunteers@gmail.com](mailto:kojain2026volunteers@gmail.com)

**Fundraising** As a community, we have made a conscious decision to keep registration accessible so that everyone can attend. To make this possible, we are working together to close the remaining gap and are seeking support from those who are able. If you would like to contribute or learn more, please reach out to: [sammel@kojain.com](mailto:sammel@kojain.com)

**Operations & Experience** Behind the scenes, multiple teams are working to ensure an exceptional experience:

- Coordinating closely with the venue and vendors
- Finalizing food with some of the best restaurants in New Jersey, along with fun additions like mela booths and interactive food stations
- Securing top-tier AV, photography, and production
- Continuously improving our website and preparing for upcoming launches, including talent show sign-ups and speaker showcases

This Sammelan is shaping up to be one of the most vibrant and community-driven gatherings we've ever had with record participation, especially from youth, and incredible involvement from across generations.

We are deeply grateful for the energy, support, and unity of this community, and we cannot wait to come together.

Warm Regards,  
KOJAIN Sammelan 2026 Team

## Upcoming Regional Events

A list of upcoming regional events

- April 19th: Canada KOJIC Townhall and Board Game event
- April 26th: SF Bay Area Sakhi Annual Meetup
- May 9th: SF Bay Area Spring Picnic
- May 9th: Seattle Treasure Hunt
- May 18th: Midwest Kachchhi Group Picnic & Holi
- June 13th: Region5 Annual Jalsa Jalsa Picnic
- June 13th: Seattle Potluck Party
- June 13th: So.Cal Kutchi Picnic
- July 19th: Canada KOJIC Annual Summer Picnic
- Aug 7-9: SF Bay Area Camping Trip



## KOJAIN Matrimonial Success Story

On March 6th, family and close friends gathered in the Bay Area, California, to celebrate the joyful union of Parin and Urja in an intimate and heartfelt ceremony — a wonderful example of how matrimonial platforms continue to bring families and hearts together across the world.

Parin, son of Ami and Ajay Shah (Matunga, Mumbai; Gaam Godhra), and Urja, daughter of Kalpana and Bhupen Gada (Ghatkopar, Mumbai; Gaam Bada), connected through the KOJAIN Matrimonial platform. Urja's family first discovered Parin's profile online and reached out to his family in Mumbai, beginning a journey rooted in shared values and community trust.

As conversations progressed, both families discovered meaningful common connections in the Bay Area through Dhvani Gada, Urja's cousin, and Sneha Karani, Parin's fui (paternal aunt). These shared relationships strengthened confidence and brought warmth to the growing connection between the two families.

During a Thanksgiving visit to the Bay Area, Parin and Urja met in person for what was planned as a brief meeting — but what began as a two-hour conversation naturally extended into eight hours of effortless connection. Over the following days, they spent more time together, deepening their understanding and ultimately deciding to begin their life journey together in California.

The wedding itself reflected the spirit of community and togetherness. Three local families — Sneha and Amit Vira, Jaina and Kalpendu Pasad, and Dhvani and Jignesh Gada — graciously hosted a beautiful, intimate celebration across their backyards, creating a warm and memorable setting filled with love and blessings.

Parin and Urja will now be settling in Charles City, Iowa, as they begin this new chapter together.

Both families express deep gratitude to the KOJAIN Matrimonial platform for enabling this meaningful match and to the supportive community whose involvement made the celebration truly special. Parin and Urja's story stands as a reminder that while technology may initiate connections, it is shared values, family bonds, and community support that turn introductions into lifelong partnerships.

KOJAIN Matrimonial Success Story



*Parin and Urjas Wedding*



PIC•COLLAGE

## KOJAIN Youth Of America (KYA)



A group of KYA members from Bay Area enjoying a scenic hike in February at Dragon Mountain in Milpitas, CA.

In the month of March, KYA hosted two wonderful West Coast gatherings - first one of it's kind in Seattle and another in the California, Bay Area.

Youth from across each state gathered not just to share a meal & enjoy great food, but to build connections and engage in meaningful conversations. These meetups provided a valuable opportunity to connect with new people locally and continue building a strong community.



## KOJAIN Youth Of America

KOJAIN Youth of America (KYA) has had a great start to the new year, with an amazing East Coast retreat!

**26** attendees came to Ventnor Beach, NJ to spend two nights filled with fun Kutchi Games and activities. It started off strong with a Friday night Kutchi Icebreakers and bonding session between all the attendees. Everyone was placed into their teams for the weekend, and retreat officially began!

Saturday everyone spent time painting tote bags with Kutchi Block Printing designs and then went onto the beach for games. On the beach, they played KO and had a fun get-to-know-you beach ball activity. After running in the sand everyone had some yummy sub sandwiches for lunch and another bonding session.



Following the finale, everyone got ready for the all-nighter, spending the whole night chatting and playing games together. At 2 am, there was a needed maggi break, and more snacks were brought out for the night. By Sunday morning everyone felt like family!

As we build our connection to Kutch, our Culture and Projects team have implemented a Word of the Week! Every week we post and explain one Kutchi word, or word related to Kutch. We hope to build more awareness and educate our Kutchi Youth, so keep following the instagram [@kojainyouthofamerica](https://www.instagram.com/kojainyouthofamerica) if you haven't already!

Please join our Whatsapp Community, here we post about all our upcoming events and news!



Later in the afternoon everyone got back into their teams and played a Kutchi Jeopardy and Trivia game. Ending the day with a scavenger hunt, each team had to work to follow clues and find coins around the house. They used these coins in a problem solving skit, and baking competition. Teams made desserts and worked under pressure to impress the judges, and finally a winning team was announced!



## Region 2 - KutchValley Celebrates Love-A-Thon

KutchValley had their **7th walkathon** on 14th February, the day when KutchValley community **turned 25** ... so it was a double celebration!!

**125+** attendees joined us at **Love-A-Thon** on V-Day Walkathon to walk, celebrate and cherish the memories of our growing community.

The weather turned out to be just perfect. The beautiful green rolling hills, turkeys and horses along the way made the entire experience refreshing and heart-pumping. As part of our Silver Jubilee celebrations, we attempted a park with smaller loops this time, and it was lovely to see everyone including our seniors take on both the flat and uphill trail. A delightful sight to see the kids happily biking and enjoying the serene views around the pond.



The enthusiastic walkers had fun engaging themselves in a trivia challenge about KutchValley, it brought lots of laughter and made the KV25 celebration even more special.



A drone captured photos as attendees stood patiently forming the special KV25 photo expressing their love for the community.

The morning wrapped up in a sweet way — celebrating Love-A-Thon, KV's Silver Jubilee kickoff with jalebi, papdi, cup cakes and garam chai.

## Region 2 - KutchValley Celebrates Love-A-Thon



## Region 2 - KutchValley's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

KutchValley completed **25** years on Feb 14, 2026 and to celebrate this milestone we had a special event onboard the **historic USS Hornet - a World War 2 ship - on Mar 1, 2026**. The theme decided was **Love & Laughter** since that is what Kutchis do when they meet - exhibit love for each other and laugh away while doing Medavo. The dress color theme was Red, Blue, White and Silver to match with the colors of Love, Ocean, Navy and 25th Anniversary.



Guests arrived at 10am and explored the historic ship first. Later we had a delicious Middle Eastern lunch of Falafel Sandwiches. After lunch, a few folks gave short speeches on what they like about KutchValley. After the speeches, Snehal Pachigar - a local standup comedian - made the audience laugh with his jokes. This was followed by singing by a local singer and the attendees danced to some melodious songs. Arrangements were made for kids to have a special guided tour of the ship while adults enjoyed the entertainment. About **360+** attendees celebrated this happy occasion together. Lot of happy memories created over the past years were remembered and the general sentiment among all was that KutchValley has become a home away from home and an extended family for all of us.

Even though KutchValley has completed 25 years, Kutchis in the Bay Area have been around for many more years (since the 70s) helping out each other and organizing picnics, Diwali parties and other such events. The Kutchi crew that helped put together this special event were : Beleena Veera, Bhavini Gada, Dimple Dedhia, Isha Dedhia, Jayesh Gada, Madhavi Khona, Nitul Haria, Prashant Shah, Romil Rambhia

Region 2 - KutchValley's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations



Region 4 - Ram Gada receives multiple awards



The Girnar Award, presented by the Brahad Mumbai Gujarati Samaj, was conferred upon Ram Gada on December 23, 2025, at Yogi Sabha Graha in Mumbai.

The awards honored individuals from diverse fields for their valuable contributions to society. This prestigious recognition was awarded to our beloved Ram Gada in the NRI–USA category for his outstanding social and cultural contributions



Congratulations to Ram Gada, recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2026 ICOC Minnesota Business Excellence Gala.

Ram Gada was selected for his decades of professional excellence and his enduring contributions to Minnesota’s Indian American community.



Region 5 : Ishvik Nisar

Komal & Karan Nisar are excited to share the arrival of their newborn. Exciting times ahead while creating memories with the new bundle of joy.

**Son's Name:** Ishvik Karan Nisar

**DOB:** Dec 3, 2025

**Location:** Cumming, GA

**Gaam:** Wadala



## Region 10 - Happy Helping Hands

As a pathshala teacher, I was so excited when I heard about the JAINA Ahimsa meal drive in September 2021. I thought it was a perfect project to get my students involved. Ahimsa, Compassion and Charity are some of the key Jainism values that we strive to teach our kids. What a great way to put the lessons into practice. So one fine Sunday morning in October, we gathered in my garage and assembled 75 meal trays. We served underprivileged and homeless people on the street in Bridgeport, CT. It was definitely a rewarding experience for everyone. When we came back home, my own children were overflowing with joy. They wanted to keep going back.

As a believer of “Charity benefits the giver more than the recipient”, I wanted to support their enthusiasm. **Happy Helping Hands** was born that day.

For **one year**, every single Sunday morning, rain or shine or snow, our family kept serving our fresh, homemade, vegan, vegetable and black bean soup. It became our routine and a joyful start to our Sunday mornings. Slowly word got around and two more families from CT Jain Center have joined us. We now serve many things besides our popular soup; like bananas, oranges, water bottles, and snacks. We also do seasonal donation drives, from collecting books and school supplies, to winter gear and personal hygiene items; and distribute them there. It has been more than four rewarding years now and we are fully determined to keep it going. We have served food to over 8000 people and our donation drives have benefited many kids as well as adults.

It is amazing to see so many kids along with adults come out to volunteer with us on Sunday mornings. Through our facebook page and website [www.HappyHelpingHandsCT.org](http://www.HappyHelpingHandsCT.org), we continue to inspire others to volunteer. We have also been recognized by local media and elected members.

Jai Jinendra.

Kavita Gada,

Member of Connecticut Jain Center - JCCT

Region 10 - Happy Helping Hands



## Region 10 - Boston Ski Trip

Boston Kutchhi Group organized their annual ski trip to Mt Sunapee over the long weekend in February. The one day trip in the mountains of New Hampshire was enjoyed by community members of ages 8 - 60. The weather was sunny and mildly cold, perfect for skiing, especially a day after fresh snowfall. The participants had a lot of fun. The pictures are in the link below.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/rxpkuQFhdXwQmTd78>



## Dialysis Center in Bhojay, Kutch

Bhojay Sarvodaya Trust has been providing exceptional healthcare services to the residents of rural Kutch.

In January 2026, Mrs. Nalini and Dr. Mahendra Champshi Maru and Mrs. Neena and Mr. Harakhchand Champshi Maru had the privilege of performing a ground breaking ceremony for respected Vejbai Champshi Maru and respected Javerben Jivraj Gada Kidney Dialysis Center and Center of Excellence in Nephrology in Bhojay.

Mr. Liladhar Gada stated that with the new facility in place, current dialysis center will double in its capacity and services such as prevention, detection, and treatment of kidney in diseases will be made available at the 20 beds facility at Department of Nephrology in Bhojay.

The donor family applauded the services provided by Mr. Liladhar Gada and the staff of Bhojay Hospital. Many dignitaries from our kutchi community were present at the ceremony and offered their best wishes.



## Bidada Sports Complex

Kutch Yuvak Sangh built an Olympic level new Sports Complex in Bidada Kutch that was inaugurated in January 2026.

Complex spreads over **7 acres** land with **21000** s.f. Indoor as well as outdoor building.

Center will hire coaches and plan to train students as well as athletes for local as well as state and national level competitions. It plans to train people for police academy as well as military services.

It also offers lodging and boarding facilities for visiting teams. Some games offered here include Olympic level 400 meter running track, Football, Kho-Kho, Kabbadi, Shotput, Javelin and Discuss Throw, Long Jump, Wrestling, Badminton, Chess, Carrom, Table Tennis, Yoga, Gymnastics.

It also has a well equipped Gymnasium, Gymnasium room was sponsored by Maru Family, Florida.

This center has raised the bar for sports activities in the state of Gujarat.



The advertisement features a banner with the Kutch Yuvak Sangh logo on the left and sports icons on the right. The main text in Gujarati reads: 'કચ્છ યુવક સંઘ' (Kutch Yuvak Sangh), 'શ્રીમતી સરલાબેન શાંતિલાલ તેજશી શાહ ક્રિડાંગણ, શ્રીમાન શાંતિલાલ રતનશી પટેલ (રૂડાણી) સ્પોર્ટ્સ અકેડેમી' (Shrimati Sarlaben Shantilal Tejshahi Shah Kridangana, Shri Man Shantilal Ratnashi Patel (Rudhani) Sports Academy). Below this, it says 'બિદડા માં' (In Bidada) and '‘હરીકો ભવન’ અને ‘સ્પોર્ટ્સ કોમ્પ્લેક્સ’' (‘Hariko Bhavan’ and ‘Sports Complex’). The background shows a modern building with a running track and a green field.

## Matrimony Listings



**Name:** Meet Amir Gala  
**Age:** 27 (October 15, 1998)  
**Height:** 5' 6"  
**Current Location:** Jersey City, New Jersey  
**Parents Name:** Meeta & Amir Kapurchand Gala

**Brief Intro:** I work in banking and markets in NYC and hold a dual Master's degree. I'm close with my family, and those roots keep me grounded. When I'm not at work, I'm usually active - whether it's hiking, running, training, or playing sports, while making time for reading, and music, including learning the guitar. I truly value sincerity, a good sense of humor, and building connections that feel natural and effortless.

**LinkedIn:** [www.linkedin.com/in/meet-gala-61940414b](https://www.linkedin.com/in/meet-gala-61940414b)  
**Insta:** [https://www.instagram.com/meet\\_gala](https://www.instagram.com/meet_gala)  
**Email ID:** [meetgala3@gmail.com](mailto:meetgala3@gmail.com)  
**Phone Number:** +1 (215) 934-1432  
**Mother:** +91 9879933388



**Name:** Mukul Gada  
**Age:** 28 years  
**Height:** 5ft 3inch  
**Current Location:** Seattle, Washington  
**Parents Name:** Namrata & Sachin Gada (Shah)

**Brief Introduction:** I am a fitness focused and social person. So, nutrition, family & friends come first. Professionally, I am a Machine Learning Product Manager driving the development of Search systems. I am pretty career-driven and business focused. I am a regular cyclist, love mountains & garba and crave Indian food. I am looking for someone who wants to lead a meaningful and fun life.

**LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/in/mukulgada/>  
**Insta:** <https://www.instagram.com/mukulgada97>  
**Email:** [mukulgada6@gmail.com](mailto:mukulgada6@gmail.com)

## Matrimony Listings



**Name:** Raj Manoj Dedhia

**Age:** 26

**Height:** 5' 7"

**Current Location:** Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

**Parents Name:** Heena Manoj Dedhia

**Brief Introduction:** I am Raj Manoj Dedhia, 26, originally from Mumbai and living in Ottawa, Canada as a Permanent Resident (PR). I currently work at Nokia and enjoy my job, which involves testing software and making sure the system runs reliably.

Outside of work, I enjoy exploring new technologies, traveling, cooking and keeping up with cricket. I'm vegetarian, don't smoke and don't drink, and prioritize both mental and physical well-being.

**Linkedin:** [www.linkedin.com/in/rajdedhia10](http://www.linkedin.com/in/rajdedhia10)

**Instagram:** [www.instagram.com/rajdedhia10](http://www.instagram.com/rajdedhia10)

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