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President's Message

Pedam,

Hope everyone had a wonderful summer and got a chance to explore something new. I had a wonderful time meeting many visitors during bay area meetups - seniors who come here every summer, first timers, new incoming students and their parents visiting the US to drop off their kids for college.

A very warm welcome to the new students from India who are joining university this year. Big thanks to our host family program team and the host families in each state who are supporting these incoming students. This year we have 50+ incoming students who have enrolled in various universities across North America. In recent years, admissions to bachelors programs are also increasing. Approximately 15% of the incoming students are enrolled in bachelor's programs this year.



Thanks to your support, we have now completed phase 2 of the Census/Directory. Very thankful to the generous support of Nainil Chheda (MA) and his team for providing the framework for directory registration, necessary security updates to the website and more. We couldn't have accomplished this massive task of registration without the help of dedicated volunteers who have been helping follow up with many members. A BIG thank you to all of you who have been helping with outreach. We still have a lot more to accomplish w.r.t registration and if you find someone missing, please support KOJAIN by getting them registered.

What a fantastic kick-off for our in-person meetups with the cruise trip alongside our amazing community members from different states. We are so grateful for the enthusiastic support from everyone who joined this initiative. The photos truly capture the joy and connection. It was great to hear about the non-stop medavo while enjoying the activities. Thanks to Pankti Gala (TX) for helping with all the reservations and logistics. Cheers to the cruise planning team for pulling off a new activity at such a short notice.

The youth team has achieved a significant milestone this year by bringing onboard west coast team members in the KYA team. They are also leading various activities this fall and strongly encourage your youths to participate and join them. Excited to see this huge leap on various fronts by the youths and look forward to supporting and celebrating new milestones with them.

This year we had 110+ members who did athai tap or more. It is truly inspiring to see the spiritual growth amongst KOJAIN members and wish that everyone gets the willpower to do more tap every year.

KOJAIN's latest initiative - the Mentor Mentee Program is seeing great momentum. Pleased to see the registration turnout. And it is really encouraging to see that members are not only vested in each other's growth but also helping bring the community closer.

We are also in the process of collecting various KOJAIN milestones, historic data to be available on our website. Stay tuned for website updates. This newsletter brings updates to our various ongoing initiatives like directory, MMP and many variety of events across various regions.

Regards,

Bhavini Gada

President | KOJAIN 2024-25

**** KOJAIN YOUTH of America ****

KYA (KOJAIN Youth of America) goes nationwide - Kutchi Jain youth from all over the nation are getting involved, from our new West Coast Youth Board to our bigger and better East Coast Youth Committee/Subcommittee! With our amazing youth team, we will be hosting two incredible retreats, connecting Kutchi youth throughout the country, and we can't wait to grow our community.

West Coast Youth Board

Leads:

- Aayush Gala (Gaam: Wadala)
- Kairavi Shah (Gaam: Naredi/Nandi Khakar)

Logistics Committee:

- Bhavi Kenia (Gaam: Kapaya)
- Rashi Haria (Gaam: Devpur)

Programming Committee:

- Pratham Savla (Gaam: Bada)
- Ruchi Haria (Gaam: Devpur)

PR & Apparel:

- Miloni Dharod (Gaam: Patri)

East Coast Youth Board

Finance and Logistics Committee:

- **Leads:** • Tanay Gada (Gaam: Kotada Roha)
- Mehal Gala (Gaam: Kotdi Mahadevpuri)
- **SubCo:** • Chery Gada (Gaam: Mota Asambia)
- Mitesh Shah (Gaam: Tera)
- Chintan Maheshwari (Gaam: Jakhau)
- Shaili Haria (Gaam: Bidada)

Programming Committee:

- **Leads:** • Jessica Vora (Gaam: Varandi Moti)
- Neev Maru (Gaam: Bidada)
- **SubCo:** • Arnav Dedhia (Gaam: Bhujpur)
- Cavin Gada (Gaam: Mota Asambia)
- Pia Visaria (Gaam: Bada)
- Samay Malde (Gaam: Bhujpur)
- Veer Shah (Gaam: Rayan)

PR Committee:

- **Leads:** • Khushi Haria (Gaam: Bidada)
- Parth Haria (Gaam: Bidada)
- Mehal Gala (Gaam: Kotdi Mahadevpuri)
- **SubCo:** • Neil Mehta (Gaam: Bada)
- Jaini Chheda (Gaam: Nani Tumbadi)
- Siya Shah (Gaam: Karagoga)
- Syna Lodaya (Gaam: Sandhav)

On-Site Logistics:

- Keval Gala (Gaam: Vadala)

KYA Co-Chairs:

- Janak Shah (Gaam: Devpur)
- Reeya Vora (Gaam: Varandi Moti)
- Riya Gada (Gaam: Lakadia)
- Rohan Gala (Gaam: Chhasra)

We hope to create unforgettable retreats and events, and we hope to grow our community!

Follow us [@KojainYouth](#) on Instagram or email us at youthkojain@gmail.com if you have any questions, ideas, or want to get involved!

**** KOJAIN Mentor Mentee Program ****

The KOJAIN Mentor Mentee Program has officially started!

The Mentor Mentee Program was conceptualized earlier this year and was kicked off in May '24.

Nearly 120 members of the community signed up, making the turnout incredible and a testament to the growth mindset, entrepreneurial and supportive nature of our community.

Also noteworthy is the fact that the number of mentors exceeded the number of mentees, highlighting the generosity and commitment of our members who are eager to help, guide & nurture fellow community members.

The MMP team carefully reviewed all applications for information provided, including but not limited to participant's professional paths, their individual goals, LinkedIn profiles, resumes if available, etc. to run the match process to create the Mentor-Mentee pairs. The goal was to ensure that each pair can foster a meaningful, productive and a rewarding mentor-mentee relationship.

Earlier in September, this program crossed a significant milestone!

1. The MMP team completed the match process and rolled out pairing information to each participant.
2. In addition, the team provided resources and guidance to help the new pairs navigate their relationships effectively, including setting SMART---Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound---goals.

We encourage all participants to actively engage and make full use of this opportunity to help / grow.

On our end, the MMP team will check-in from time to time and also hold a mid-program review to assess progress and gather additional feedback.

Additionally, this is an on-going program, and we will open applications and run the match process semi-annually.

The MMP team can be reached at mmp@kojain.com for any questions, thoughts and / or concerns.

We look forward to some very successful stories coming out of this endeavor of KOJAIN. Thanks to everyone who has joined or supported the program -- you are what makes our community tick!

“In learning, you will teach, and in teaching, you will learn.”



**** KOJAIN Online Directory ****

Exciting News for KOJAIN Life Members!

We are thrilled to announce that the **KOJAIN Online Directory** is now live and ready for all Life Members to access with their login credentials!

In November 2023, we kicked off the KOJAIN Community Census initiative with Phase 1, focusing on registration. We reached out to the vibrant Kutchi community across North America, encouraging everyone to join our growing network. At present there are around **1150** registered members, and the number is steadily increasing.

Phase 2 is now complete! Our dedicated KOJAIN Directory team has verified the life membership status of all registered members and updated our database. This means that all registered Life Members can now explore and connect with other members seamlessly. We currently have around 300 Registered Life members in online Directory out of 500+ KOJAIN Life members

 **Discover and Connect!**  On the Members page, you can search for fellow members by name, city, state, or even their village in Kutch. Dive into the community and start building meaningful connections today! For more details, check out our KOJAIN [Members Directory FAQ](#).

KOJAIN

Members Directory

 New Jersey

 All Members

ORDER BY: Alphabetical ▾

Name	Last Name	Spouse	City	Gaam
------	-----------	--------	------	------

Aditya 	Gada	Shruti	Nutley	Bhujpur
--	------	--------	--------	---------



Akash 	Bhate	Anjali	EDISON	Nalla
---	-------	--------	--------	-------



Akshita 	Shah	Manish	East Brunswick	Dumra
---	------	--------	----------------	-------

Amar 	Dedhia	Dhruti	Fairlawn	Kotda Roha
--	--------	--------	----------	------------

🔥 **Having Trouble?** 🔥 If you're a Life Member and have registered but still can't see other members' information, don't worry! Just drop us an email at Directory@kojain.groups.io, and we'll assist you promptly.

☀️ **Not Registered Yet?** ☀️ What are you waiting for? Register now at KOJAIN Registration—it's free and easy!

If you're not a Life Member yet, we highly encourage you to become one.

Learn more about the benefits at KOJAIN [Membership](#).

We've also made several enhancements to the Directory section and the overall website to improve your experience. Our efforts to onboard more community members and refinements to the website will continue in the coming months.

📣 **Spread the Word!** 📣 Tell your KOJAIN family and friends in North America to [register](#) and become part of this amazing community. Together, let's strengthen our bonds, support each other, and celebrate our shared heritage. The more we grow, the stronger our community becomes!

Dimple

OFFLINE

INFO

Profile

Country

USA

First Name

Dimple

Last Name

Dedhia

Occupation

Computers/IT Services

Phone Number

669-241

Village in Kutch

Nani Khakhar

Terms and Conditions

Yes

Spouse Information

Spouse First Name

Prashant

Spouse Last Name

Shah

Spouse Email Address

shahprashant@gmail.com

Spouse Phone Number

669-241

Spouse Occupation

Computers/IT Services

Spouse Village

Naredi

Children Information

Child Name

Kairavi Shah

Child Year of Birth

20th - 20th -

**** Call for Sammelan ****

It's been 6 years since we had our last Sammelan in 2018.

The next one will be our 10th Sammelan and like we mentioned in the last newsletter we need each and everyone's help to regain the momentum for hosting Sammelan again.

"Be the change you want to see in the world."

Have ideas or suggestions for Sammelan??

Are you willing to be a grand sponsor for Sammelan??

Need help hosting one??

Comments, suggestions, feel free to reach out to us at admin@kojain.com

**** Upcoming Regional Events ****

Many regions are planning to celebrate Diwali together.

We look forward to the celebration details and pictures from the regional meetups.

- **19th Oct** NJ Diwali Celebration
- **26th Oct** Southern California Diwali Celebration
- **26th Oct** Seattle Diwali Celebration
- **26th Oct** Chicagoland Diwali Celebration
- **27th Oct** San Francisco Bay Area Diwali Celebration
- **9th Nov** New England Kutchi Diwali Celebration
- **16th Nov** Dallas Area Diwali Celebration

**** 2024 Cruise Trip ****

On **July 18th, 2024**, a group of 24 young Kutchi adventurers from all over the USA set off on a four-day Royal Caribbean cruise from Miami with KOJAIN, ready to create memories that would last a lifetime.

From the moment we stepped on board, we knew this was going to be special.

The top deck, "समां है सुहाना सुहाना" (The Weather is Delightful), became our haven. Under the open sky, we celebrated our Gujarati heritage with lively garba dances, feeling the warmth of home even miles away. The Wind Jammer and Chai Tapari delighted our taste buds with the spread of vegetarian and Jain delicacies. Shantilal bhai's melodious voice took us on a musical journey, blending English jingles with soulful Kutchi folk songs, fostering a beautiful sense of community.

All of us, dressed in our traditional attire got together one afternoon, where we all introduced ourselves, found connections with each other, danced on garba tunes and sang Gajiyo together. Each day was packed with exciting activities - from yoga and jacuzzi sessions to mesmerizing dance shows, Broadway-style theaters, and even an ice-skating performance. Everyday dinner was all of us sitting together, enjoying Indian & continental food with a lot of fun and laughter.





As we disembarked the ship, our hearts overflowed with gratitude for the organizers who had planned this incredible adventure with such care.

We returned home with memories of joy, already eagerly anticipating our next voyage together.

Until then, we'll cherish the magic we created on the high seas with KOJAIN, where **"Like Minds and Like Hearts"** came together to make memories that will last a lifetime.

"હેત અને હોમ ને મેળાવડો"

કુઝની સહેલગાહ અને તેની પંચ તારત (5 Star) જેવી વ્યવસ્થા, ભોજન, અલગ-અલગ એક્ટીવીટીઝ, થીએટર્સ, સ્વીમીંગ પૂલ, હોટ ટબ, પબ વગેરે વગેરે... સૌએ માણી.

અમાર મહિના એટલે કચ્છીએ ગારે નવું વર્ષ. આ નવા વર્ષની શરૂઆત આટલા સરસ મેળાવા અને જલસાથી મધ્ય દરીયે કુઝમાં થાય એટલે

"સોનામાં સુંગધ ભળવી" સરસ મજાના કચ્છી ગીતો વચ્ચે કચ્છી મારોલે હવું. અમેરીકાનો પોતાની ઘર.

કચ્છ "વલ્લો વતન" ની સુંગધ ફેલાવી.

આપણા કચ્છીઓની ખાસીયાત કે કોઈ કચ્છી ગળે એટલે તરત જ પૂછે "ફ્યો ગામ" અને પછી શરૂ થાય ઓળખાણની વણગાર. આવી ઘણીબધી ઓળખાણો અમારા વચ્ચે નીતવાની ગઈ અને અમારે સૌ નીકર આવતા ગયા અને એકબીજાના સારા ફેવરિટ સૌ બની ગયા. આ અવિસ્મરણીય નજરાણું સૌ ખેત પોતાના હૃદયમાં સાથે લેતા ગયા.

"Like Return Gift"

આના મારે અને "કચ્છી કો-જૈન" સંસ્થાના આભારીઓને જેના નેજા હેઠળ સૌ કચ્છી, કુઝની સહેલગાહ માણી શક્યા. જેમાં Senior Citizen ને પણ આ કુઝમાં મેડાવવાની હંડલા થઈ. Senior Citizen પણ સંક્રોમ વગર કુઝની મોજ માણી અને વેબેટેરીયન લેખક જૈન કુઝની પણ વ્યવસ્થા સારી હતી.

શૈલેષભાઈનો પણ આભાર માનીએ છીએ. તેઓ ખૂબજ નમ્ર અને સૌને એક તાંતલો બાંધી રાખ્યા હતા. એમાં વર્ષાનો પણ સહુસર ખૂબ મસેસ હતો.

પંક્તિને કેમ ખૂબાય. કે જેમણે આખા ટ્રીપનું સંચાલન કર્યું અને ખૂબજ સારી વ્યવસ્થા ગોઠવી આપી. જેણે નિર્વિદન આપી આ કુઝની મોજ પૂર્ણ થઈ.

**** Regional News : Region 1 ****

❖ Arizona Get Together

We had a great Kutchi get together in Phoenix on August 25th, 2024. Jayanti and Kusum Savla family were very kind enough to host the annual Kutchi get together at their residence. About 12 families joined and 12 to 14 new Kutchi students from ASU attended the event.

All of us had a great time doing Medavo and enjoyed the yummy food.

Thank you to Savla family and Leena Shah for coordinating this get together.



❖ **Seattle Summer Sports Event**

The Seattle Kutchi community recently hosted its first summer event, and it was no ordinary get-together—it was a spirited sports extravaganza with nearly 80 attendees. The event lasted from 4:00 PM to 10:00 PM, making it one of the longest gatherings.

Charmi Zavery and Binal Jain, the committee members in charge of organizing the games, truly outdid themselves. They curated an exciting lineup of sports, including Baseball cricket, Lagori football, Twin handball, Balloon race, Hopscotch, Box walk, and Grid puzzle. The participants were evenly divided into two teams, each with quirky team names. Two group games allowed team captains to strategize and select players. The grand finale was an unexpected relay race that electrified the atmosphere.

Adding to the excitement, the committee revealed the brand-new Seattle KVO logo during the event. Designed by our talented Apeksha Chheda with inputs from the committee, the logo beautifully blends elements of Kutchi culture with the vibrant spirit of Seattle, Washington. While the event was filled with joy, there was a bittersweet moment as we bid farewell to Ankit and Manali Dedhia. They've decided to relocate to India permanently, and we wished them the best in their future endeavors.

The enthusiasm didn't wane even as the event concluded. In fact, a separate sports get-together group has formed, promising more exciting gatherings in the future.



❖ Red Bull Challenge

Kajal Gogri (daughter of Nikhil Gogri of Seattle and granddaughter of Lax & Hema Gogri of Goodyear, Arizona) finished the Red Bull **"Can you Make it Challenge"** from May 21-28, 2024, in Europe. She competed against teams from all over the world. The goal was for each team of three to make their way from Milan to Berlin (thru 5 cities).

They had no money and no cell phones. They only had Red Bulls to use to barter for food, lodging and transportation. Along their journey across Europe, they took on 'Challenges' where they will earn points.

The winner was the team that gained the most points. Points are accumulated in three ways -

1. completing challenges
2. total miles traveled
3. gaining followers on their social feed.

You can see her adventures on instagram [@teammulletmamas](#) and tiktok [@mulletmamas24](#)

Congratulations to Kajal for this adventure.

❖ Vadil Milan 2024

KutchValley hosted Vadil Milan on Saturday, July 13th at Murphy Park in Milpitas. Summer is a wonderful time for visiting parents from India. Vadil Milan was a playdate for parents of KVites. Event organized so all visiting and resident parents could meet and form new connections, recollect old relations, and have a great time together.





Picnic style gathering was a huge success, with over 125 attendees from 45+ families from different cities in the Bay Area. Perfect weather, spacious park with lots of shade and huge playground, enhanced the fun of the event. Hasmukh and Kavita Patel (Gala) from KV community itself, catered for the event. They made delicious Khichu, khaman dhokla, fresh mohanthal, chai and coffee along with some dry snacks and fruits. Everyone enjoyed the food.

The kids had a blast playing games and blowing bubbles, while many KVites got a chance to practice for the upcoming KVL Sports League. Senior parents could not stop singing old melodies and thoroughly enjoyed Antakshari. There was also plenty of medavo, and many people made new friendships over food. Vadil Milan was a great way for all parents in the Bay Area to come together and bond.

These connections go a long way as many visiting parents meet and socialize regularly after going back to India too.

Vadil Milan Team organizers (Dhinal Gogri, Jayesh Gada, Naman Gala, Nirav Gala, Romil Rambhia, Sameer Shah, Sneha Karani) would like to thank everyone who attended for making it such a success.



❖ KutchValley League(KVL) 2024: A Celebration of Sports & Community Togetherness

KutchValley made history once again with **KVL 2024**, a thrilling 2.5-day extravaganza in the vibrant **Bay Area of California** from July 26-28. Building on the success of last year, the event brought together community members of all ages to participate in a diverse range of sports. This year's lineup included favorites from last year - Women's Throwball, Women's Cricket, Men's Volleyball, Men's Cricket, and Kid's Dodgeball. But the enthusiasm around KVL inspired us to go even further to **introduce new sports** - Wallball for kids aged **5 to 8**, and events specifically for our Robinhoods (**55+**) that included Bocce ball, Dart throwing, and Cornhole.



At the heart of KVL is the goal of promoting **an active lifestyle** and encouraging everyone, regardless of age or background, to engage in outdoor sports. KVL 2024 was an unforgettable celebration of sports, community spirit, and unity, filled with even more excitement and inclusivity than ever before. The numbers speak for themselves: 27 Teams, 190 players (a whopping **58% increase** from last year), cheered on by approx 550 enthusiastic attendees (total across all days). KVL 2024 truly surpassed all expectations. A true highlight of the event was witnessing our vadils not only participate in various sports but also actively cheer for their competitors. Their involvement and sportsmanship set a fabulous

example of what KVL is all about: **unity, active living, and the joy of community.**



Each team member proudly donned their team t-shirts, featuring creative Bollywood-themed team names like "SINGHAM SMASHERS", "GOLMAAL GIRLS"!!!! The nearly two months of practice sessions leading up to the event were filled with laughter, camaraderie, and a shared dedication to honing new skills. These practice sessions were not just about preparing for the games; they were about **building new friendships** and **strengthening the bonds** within our community.

This sports extravaganza was made even more special thanks to the **generous sponsors**, majority of whom are from the local KutchValley community! Their unwavering support allowed us to provide complimentary lunches for players, subsidized meals for spectators, and free refreshments (jalebi/fafda, ice cream, snacks). Grand Sponsors handed out trophies to the winning teams.



KVL 2024 turned out to be a true testament to the **vibrant spirit and togetherness of the KutchValley community**. It brought people together, encouraged an active lifestyle, and created enduring memories.

Here's to the power of sports and the unity it brings to our wonderful community!



KVL 2024 was organized by Avani Vora, Aditya Oswal, Ankit Rambhia, Chintan Poladia, Harshal Veera, Jaideep Shah, Jayesh Gada, Mayuri Nisar, Monil Nisar, Nirav Nagda, Nitul Haria, Romil Rambhia, & Saumil Gogri.

Website: <https://www.kutchvalley.com/kvl-2024>

Fun reel: <https://www.instagram.com/reel/C-CfcEixpja/>



Organizers, Grand Sponsors, Winning Teams of KVL

❖ Camp KV 2024

KutchValley went on its annual camping trip in the month of Aug 2024.



This was our second camping of the year. The venue was Caswell Memorial State Park and approximately 150+ campers attended this 2-night outing (Fri-Sun). The temperatures were 100+ during the afternoon but that did not dampen the spirit of the campers.

They enjoyed Fri night card games at the camp center. After having an Indian breakfast of Masala Puri on Sat, the campers enjoyed a Zumba workout session. Then everyone walked down to the river for some much-needed respite from the heat in the cool water. People played in the water, swam in it, and even jumped from a tree into it. Sat afternoon was meant for relaxing in the shade and playing Dum charades and other such activities. Sat Dinner was Pav Bhaji & Sheera which was followed by group singing during campfire. Some people were lucky to watch meteor showers during the night. Sun morning

brought another Indian breakfast of Upma. Soon it was time to pack up but not before making a reel and a group photo. The event ended with a quick lunch of Indian sandwich.

We adopted the slogan of "**Camp KV - The Kutchi Vanvaas**" for this camping trip.

This year's Vanvaas was organized by Ameeta Gala, Ami Lalan, Chirag Kenia, Mita Gosar, Neelam Dharod, Prashant Shah, Vinay Rambhia.

You can watch a good summary of the event at [kutchvalley.com/youtube](https://www.kutchvalley.com/youtube)





❖ Miloni Weds Arsh



We are delighted to announce the wedding of our beloved daughter, Miloni Shah (daughter of Kalpa Khimji Gala (Samagoga) and Jaideep Jayantilal Shah (Navavas)) to Arsh Shah (son of Bhavi and Late Ketan Sureshchandra Shah) on August 25th, 2024. The wedding took place in San Diego at the Hilton Bayfront amongst the presence and with the blessings of family and friends.

The wedding ceremony was conducted following all of our Jain traditions, (to the best of our understanding) along with pre wedding ceremonies of grah shanti, haldi, sangeet with post wedding ceremonies of reception.

Miloni is a registered nurse while Arsh has a degree in International Law from Australia. Arsh's roots are in Limbdi and was based in Detroit, Michigan. Both Arsh and Miloni are now settled in San Diego, California.

Here are some pictures of the various ceremonies.



❖ Epic Kilimanjaro Adventure - By Rashmi Nishar

"It's not about how far I have come, but how far I can go" - this was the mantra that fueled my determination to reach the summit of the African continent's tallest mountain, Mt. Kilimanjaro.



The Desis of Bay Area (DOBA) hiking group, which Deep Nishar and I (Rashmi Nishar, Gaam Bharudia) are part of, has hiked up Half Dome, traversed the Grand Canyon from Rim to Rim, Inca trail in Peru and also summited Everest Base Camp. We continued our tradition of annual epic treks this year by summiting Mt. Kilimanjaro, and welcomed two new members, from the KutchValley community Sumit Chheda and Jinal Vichhivora (Ratadia Ganesh), affectionately known as the babies of the group :) The refrain during the trek was - *"Sumit nahi hoga toh summit kaise hoga."*

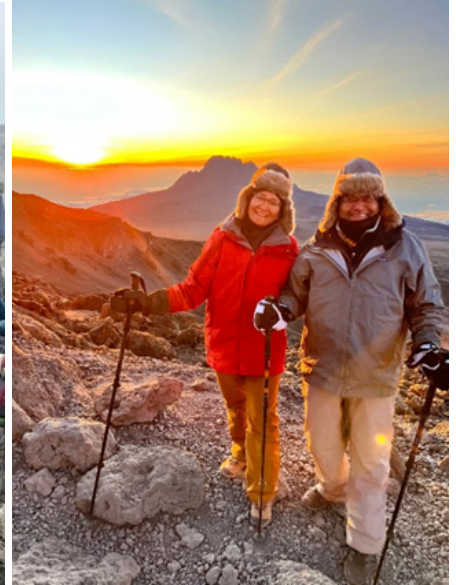
Kilimanjaro, the largest freestanding mountain in the world, boasts seven routes to the summit. The DOBA group chose the scenic Lemosho route, known for its natural beauty and a higher success rate. The eight-day trek consists of six days ascending and two days descending (yes - this math works because the summit climb begins around midnight :).



Day 1: We departed from our hotel in Arusha and hiked to the Big Tree Camp (6,890 feet). Colobus monkeys, with their distinctive long white bushy tails, greeted us at the trailhead. The initial hike through the rainforest was leisurely.

Days 2-6: The trek became increasingly steep and strenuous, with daily ascents approaching 2,000-3,000 feet. The EBC trek, on the other hand, involved much longer distances but the daily ascents were 1,500-2,000 ft.

On Day 4, visibility was near zero, with temperatures plummeting to -5 Celsius at noon at an altitude of 15,000 feet. We faced the infamous Barranco Wall, requiring hikers to flatten against the wall to avoid a steep drop. I enjoyed the Barranco wall hike - very thrilling!



Summit Day:

Some of us started at 5 am in -15 Celsius temperatures, wearing six layers on top, three on bottom, and three on our heads. The sunrise and glacier views were breathtaking. Despite the 4,500 ft ascent, we did not have any altitude related problems and enjoyed each moment of the summit experience.



Coming down proved more challenging due to the volcanic terrain's slippery surface, also known as scree. Imagine the descent to be like skiing, except the surface is more like gravel and sand than fresh powder! The return from Everest Base Camp was also challenging, but that was due to the snowstorm we encountered on our way back to Gorakshep.



The hardest part of the hike was staying in tents during the freezing temperatures and no showers for 8 days. However, the guides' exceptional service, delicious meals, and warm hospitality made the experience unforgettable. Our guide Rick and his team were extremely helpful and took care of everyone's needs, often going above and beyond such as bringing extra sleeping bags for us from their supply depot in Moshi in the middle of the trek when we were already at 13,000 feet elevation. And answering nature's call in the wild reminded us of the nature in our village in Kutch when we visited in our childhood :-).

** Regional News: Region 4 **

❖ Holi meetup

Midwest Kachchhi group kicked off their events season with the celebration of Holi. Even though Holi was in March, Midwesterners waited until April end for warmer weather.

Nearly **75 people** got together on April 28 for a full day of activities.

This was the first event for the year, and it was filled with games, charades, karaoke and of course medavo!



This was followed by some good food -- Dabeli pizza, Samosa chat pizza, Paneer tikka pizza among many other things. And not to mention masala chai!

The pinnacle was at the end. The beautiful sunny Spring Day with temps in the low 70s lent itself perfectly for playing Holi with friends and near and dear ones.



❖ Summer Picnic

With Summer at its peak, it was time to picnic!

Midwest Kachchhi Group got together for their 2nd major event of the year -- outdoor picnic.

There was a lot of eating and playing -- cards to volleyball and everything in between. And did we mention eating? It was a potluck with lots of goodies, but the crescendo was the signature Midwest Kachchhi Group sandwich.

No picnic ends here without the communal ***kakdi tamata lili chutney sandwiches*** - the picture says it all!





❖ Summer Party

We had a Jalsa Jalsa Party on **Sat, Sept 14, 2024** [3 - 9 pm], super amazing - lots of love, respect, sweetness, dance, fun, food, majaa majaa. Youth Power Jindabad - made some gr8 new friends: **K** - Kind, **O** - Outstanding, **J** - Just, **A** - Amicable, **I** - Intelligent, **N** - Noble

We all are incredibly grateful and thankful to Karishma & Anish Momaya, Jayuben & Rameshbhai Momaya family for hosting our Jalsa-Jalsa party at their C H Banquet and Event Halls with 86 Participants. Anish Momaya provided us with the complimentary sound system.



Potluck of a wide variety of mouthwatering food was brought by all, including dal vada, Misal Pav + Tea + Coffee, cream cheese chutney sandwich, Pulav & Raita, Idli & chutney, cold drinks, Pasta, Doodhi Halwo, cupcakes, Khaman dhokla, ice cream/popsicles, Dhokla chutney, Khichu, Fruit platter, Bread etc.



Everyone had a wonderful time and were also glad to see many new faces including many parents visiting from Bharat. Thanks to lots of entertaining fun activities, music, dance, and games. We had a lot of fun with enjoyable dance with cool steps. All these wonderful activities brought everyone close with a feeling of belonging. It was lovely witnessing all the kind-hearted people going the extra mile & helping hands everywhere.

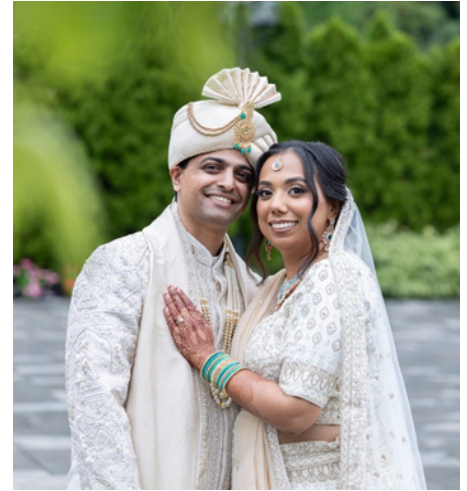
Karishma Momaya, Anish Momaya, Jayuben Momaya, Bhaven Malde, Minal Visaria Rubright, Jay Gala, Trupti Shah (Visaria) and Narendra Shah (Visaria) organized this incredible and unforgettable party.



**** Regional News: Region 8 ****

❖ Nishi weds Karan

The wedding bells have rung for Nishi Shah, daughter of Jyoti and Manoj Shah from Edison, NJ and gaam Patri in Kutchh, got married to Karan Chhatpar, son of Leena and Sunil Chhatpar of Massapequa Park, NY. The wedding ceremony and reception were Held on August 4th at the Marigold in New Jersey with the graceful presence and blessings from 300 guests. Best wishes to newlyweds from Dada and Dadi in India and heavenly blessings from Nani and Nana.



**** Regional News: Region 9 ****

❖ Summer Picnic



A group of Kutchis from New York gathered at Gantry Plaza State Park on Friday, July 20, for a fun-filled outdoor picnic. With snacks in hand and a stunning view of the Manhattan skyline, it was the perfect setting for catching up and enjoying the summer breeze. The event was a continuation of a series of quarterly meetups, fostering a stronger sense of community with each gathering.

❖ Remembering Hans Maru

Hansraj Champshi Maru transitioned at 8:48 pm on the night of July 26th, surrounded by his family in his home in Jackson Heights, Queens, New York. He was 81 years old.

Hans grew up in Bidada with his parents Champshi and Vejbai. He was the eldest of seven siblings: Jayanti, Harakhchand, Vimla, Vasu, Mahendra, and Jyoti. Vimla died before her fifth birthday; the other five survive him.

Hans was an avid student, and the recipient of successive scholarships. At Bombay University, Hans was the first member of the Kutchi community to receive the Gibbs Prize in physics. A few years after graduating from IIT Bombay in Chemical Engineering, Hans enrolled at another IIT, the Illinois Institute of Technology in the United States. In 1971, he married Usha Shah, daughter of Ratanshi (Devpur) and Maniben (Halapar).

Hans became one of the world's leading authorities on fuel cells: a non-combustive, highly efficient form of energy production which generates minimal carbon dioxide. He obtained thirteen patents and published over 175 research papers. He spent nearly his entire career at Fuel Cell Energy, ultimately serving as Chief Technology Officer. In 2004, Hans was awarded the first F.T. Bacon Medal for fuel cell research and deployment, the highest honor in his field.

Hans would often go to sleep thinking about a technical problem and wake up with an answer. He was known for treating everyone with respect, including the workers who physically built the fuel cells, whose insights he valued and sought out. In addition to technical acumen, Hans was appreciated in his field for his ability to communicate complex concepts with simplicity and elegance.

Hans was the founding president of the Jain Center of Connecticut. He said that tough questions from young people propelled him to deepen his study of the Jain faith. Hans went on to serve as regional Vice President for the Federation of Jain Associations in North America. Hans brought a spirit of hard work to any task, large or small: shoveling snow, fixing a door hinge, ironing one of Usha's sarees, writing a skit for Jain youth. He was dogged about seeing things through.

Of Hans' four children, Anand passed away at the age of one. Hans is survived by Vivek and Tania, Sheela and Duncan, and Chintan and Edwin, and grandchildren Anand, Umed, Luka and Sajan. Hans and Usha sponsored many of their siblings to immigrate to the United States. Today, Usha's younger siblings Anil and Alka and Hans' siblings Jayanti, Harakhchand, Mahendra, and Jyoti, and all their spouses, children, and grandchildren, live in the U.S. Hans was always grateful to America, which profoundly altered the trajectory of his family.

Hans was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease in 2006. He continued to live vivaciously: floating in a pond, wheeling through a forest, and dancing garba even as the disease progressed.

Hans was a pioneer, a wise and righteous man, and a gentle soul.

May we carry on his legacy.



**** Regional News: Region 10 ****

❖ Summer Picnic

Boston Kutchis had their annual summer picnic on June 29th, 2024, at Shannon Beach in Medford, MA. Everyone enjoyed the medavo and group games including playing frisbee, badminton, cricket, making group videos for KOJAIN's "Aaun Kutchi Aiyaan" Ashadhi Beej virtual meetup. Enjoying each other's company and the yummy snacks and delicious treats made by everyone made it another fun memorable picnic for all.



❖ Maitri Dedhia Graduation Celebration

On Saturday August 10th, in Bedford, MA, Smita and Jayesh Dedhia (Gaam- Kotda Roha) invited the entire Kutchi group at their residence for a Kutchi picnic and the celebration of their daughter, Maitri Dedhia's undergraduate graduation from University of Massachusetts, Amherst. It was a great party with amazing delicacies to eat and we were delighted to be able to enjoy a second picnic with games, garba and another summer get-together. Thank You Dedhia family and Best Wishes to Maitri in her future endeavors.



❖ Paryushan Parna Celebration



This is now becoming our annual ritual to do Tapasvi Anumodana and Paryushan Parna together as one big Kutchi family at the residence of Hina and Anil Shah in Concord, MA. Kutchhi families come together and bring an item each for the parna and everyone does Navkarsi together. It is wonderful to be able to hear the experiences of the Tapasvi during the tap and also hear from the kids about their tapasya. This year New England region 10 was blessed to be able to do Anumodana of around 15 Tapasvi for their Athai tap.

❖ Raas-Garba with Geeta Rabari



When Geeta Rabari, a singer from our Kutch, comes to Boston, we Kutchi's have to be there!

The Kutchi group enjoyed Garba on September 15th in Reading, MA dancing to her glorified voice. Thanks to Pooja and Mehul Gogri for coordinating the tickets.

**** Regional News : Region 11 ****

❖ KOJAIN Region 11 (Canada) as Kutchi Oswal Jains in Canada

After many months of discussions and planning and considering the growing Kutchhi Community in Canada, there was a need for a formal organization to manage local events in Canada more efficiently. The motivational pursuance from the first Kutchi family in Canada - Lataben Moti Champsee as well as the expert legal services provided by Tanvi Mukesh Vora, ensured a smooth application process and gaining a Not-for-profit organization status of our Kutchi community in Canada earlier in April 2024.

To maintain similarity in nomenclature with the parent organization - KOJAIN, the Canadian extension has been named as Kutchi Oswal Jains in Canada (KOJIC). KOJIC continues to be part of KOJAIN as Region 11 (Canada).

Bhavesh Shah – KOJIC Chair



Bhupesh Dedhia - Treasurer



Sagar Dedhia – Secretary



Lata Champsee - Member



Dimple Shah - Member



❖ Kutchhi Medavo 24 - A Vibrant Celebration of Culture and Talent

KOJIC (Region 11 - Canada), proudly hosted its first-ever cultural event, "**Kutchhi Medavo**" in May 2024. This remarkable event showcased the immense artistic talent and cultural richness of the Kutchhi community in Canada, bringing together about 75 participants (ages: 4 to 75 years) and more than 30 dedicated volunteers for an unforgettable day of celebration at Moti Champsee Cultural Centre, Toronto that was attended by over 300 members.



Conceptualized by Bhavesh Shah and an efficiently executed event by Prerana Shah, Dimple Shah, Radhika Lalan (Shah), Premal Shah, Manish Shah, and Priti Dedhia.

The theme for the event was "**Festivals of India**," where participants beautifully brought to life various Indian festivals through their performances.

From a mesmerizing Lezim dance celebrating Ganesh Chaturthi to a joyous Matukadi performance, the audience was treated to an array of traditional dances, soulful songs, and lively solo performances.



The entertainment also featured a hilarious comedy skit that left everyone in stitches. The energy was infectious, and an exciting round of Antakshari (Planned and Hosted by Riddhi & Bhupesh Dedhia) had participants and audiences humming their favorite tunes.

Behind the scenes, the event was a collaboration of talented Kutchhi choreographers and creative minds, namely Prerana Shah, Reema Dedhia, Cherisha Chheda, Chintal Dharod, Disha Shah



(Choreographers), and Sweta Chheda, (Writer/Director Comedy Skit).

In addition to the entertainment, the event also offered delicious, authentic food that added to the festive spirit. The food and kitchen departments were well managed by Sagar Dedhia, Priyesh Chheda, Vipul Kenia, Harshit Shah, Nikhil Gala, and many more).



Attendees not only enjoyed the performances but also had the opportunity to mingle with fellow community members, fostering a deeper sense of connection and unity within the Kutchhi Oswal Jain diaspora.

A couple of decorative photo booths, designed by Dimple and Manish Shah, had friends and families capture forever memories. While the enrollment and registration were well executed by Neha Savla and Premal Shah, it was Dhairya Vora who used technological advancements to develop QR codes for paperless registration.

The ones responsible to hold the entire show together and entertain the audience in between performances were Radhika Lalan (Shah), Kuntal Shah, and Hanz Vora.

The success of "Kutchhi Medavo" is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the organizers, volunteers, and all participants.

KOJIC is especially grateful to our generous donors, whose support made it possible to host such a successful event for all:

Platinum Donors:

Vanita Laxmichand Nagda; Jigna Swetu Chheda; Lata Moti Champsee

Silver Donors:

Shaileshbhai (Charliee Chikki), Pranay Satra (P17 Immigration), Two Anonymous Donors

Bronze Donors:

Ami Chintan Nagda, Riddhi Bhupesh Dedhia (Realtor Riddhi), Nikhilesh Modh (Sunlife Investments), Rita Sharad Dharamshi, and Sukhda Gangar (Probity Legal Professional Corporation) / Dhaval Gangar (Realtor)

Additional Donors:

Pradipbhai Savla, Krina Savla, Piyush Shah, Anonymous

Thank you Lataben Champsee for leading the fund-raising task and thank you Pradipbhai Savla, Priti Dedhia, and Bhavesh Shah for your contributions to this activity.



Special thanks to Priti Dedhia and Prasham Shah for preparing the slides to be displayed on the LED screens; Chirag Vira, Harshal Gala, and Sanjay Shah for managing the stage/auditorium sound and light system; Rashi Shah, Sweni Shah, and Heer Shah for all the videos and photography throughout the event; Hirenbbhai Chhedha for printing the posters and banners for the event; Bhavya Thakker for designing the KOJIC Logo and managing the special rental lights; thanks to Bhavesh Shah, Dimple Shah, Premal Shah, and Mukti Chhedha for arranging for snacks for all participants during all the practices.



Last but not the least, our sincere thanks to the Jain Society of Toronto Management Committee (including Lataben Champsee and Nikhil Nagda), for letting the premises for all the dance practices for over 3 months and renting this huge facility for the event.

KOJIC looks forward to organizing many more such cultural events, celebrating our heritage and strengthening the bonds within our community.

Thank you to everyone who participated, attended, and cheered for our talented artists. We can't wait for the next celebration!

More Videos and photos can be viewed at:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1C2jaxETPq-qS-Cyyyn0Js5u-lh2pzKEQ?usp=drive_link



**** 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 sign up details.

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 Shah BE/MBA, Director at Adobe, and Kavita Shah, BCom, Homemaker. Residing at Milpitas, CA, USA **Gaam:** Merau

Brief Intro: I am currently working as a marketing intern at a nonprofit in NYC. A little about myself: I'm ambitious, creative, and adventurous. I enjoy fashion designing, exploring different cities and cultures, painting, and playing table tennis, among other things. Ideally, I am looking for someone, between the ages of 26-28 (1996-1998), who is patient, kind, ambitious, and open to trying new things. I am a vegetarian and would like someone who follows a similar diet

Parents' contact: Kavita Shah - Call +1-669-338-9517, **Whatsapp** - +91 9886765981 **Email:** contactmausamshah@gmail.com, kavitaaurvi@gmail.com