

THE DIASPORA

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BI-WEEKLY



Federation of Indian Associations NY-NJ-CT-NE. 501(C)3. The Largest Non-Profit Grassroot Umbrella Organization in the Eight-state of NY-NJ-CT-NE

FIA CREATES HISTORY, ENTERS CONGRESSIONAL RECORDS



Federation of Indian Associations (FIA) commemorated the 75 years of Indian Independence and honored the Asian Heritage Month on May 12, 2022 at the Rayburn Building, Capitol Hill Complex, Washington, D.C. FIA was recognized for the event in the Congressional Record, Vol. 168, No. 81.

The event saw unprecedented participation from the states of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, as well as the states from the region of New England.

Influential and prominent lawmakers graced the occasion with their presence. Among the attendees were Congressmen Raja Krishnamoorthy, Frank Pallone, Tom Malinowski, Vicente González, Hakeem Jefferies, Adriano Espaillat, Matthew Cartwright, David Cicilline, Jim McGovern and Congresswomen Mikie Sherrill, Sheila Jackson Lee, Abigail Spanberger, Susie Lee, Grace Meng, Deborah K. Ross and

Cindy Axne.

From FIA, in attendance were the President Kenny Desai, Chairman Ankur Vaidya,

President of New England Abhishek Singh, Past President & Board of Trustee Srujal Parikh, Ex-Vice President and Event Chair

Himanshu Bhatia, Vice President Saurin Parikh, Vice Presidents New England Shova Sharma & Sanjay Gokhale, Secretary Parveen Bansal, Jt. Secretary Smita Patel, Treasurer Amit Ringasiya, Jt. Secretary Mahesh Dubal and Past President and Chairman of Bihar Foundation Alok Kumar.

Also in attendance were, FISANA president Deepak Shah, BAJANA president Anurag Kumar, Parsippany Senior Association President Bharat Rana, and Republican Coalition Chair Hemant Bhatt.

The theme for the celebrations for the *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* celebrating 75 years of Indian Independence was unveiled by Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthy. The theme for the attempt at the Guinness Book of World Records for Largest Number of Flags Flown and the Largest Drum Assemble was also unveiled by the Congress members present at the event.



Mr. Raja Krishnamoorthi addressing the august gathering at the event

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Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthy, in his speech, emphasized the need for Indian Americans to stand for elections and other various elected bodies. He said that FIA did a great job in bringing people from various states to the event and he was delighted to be a part of it.

FIA President Mr. Kenny Desai in his speech said today was a historical moment for Indian Americans to celebrate

the 75th anniversary of India's Independence Day at the US Capitol. "Today we pay tribute to generations of Asians who have contributed to our homeland, the United States of America, and we will continue their good work" he said, speaking about the Asian Heritage Month.

FIA Chairman Ankur Vaidya said that the event was a precursor to the major events being planned in New York city around the Independence Day and also about the India Day

Parade. The largest outside India, which continues to instill pride and honor in the hearts of the millions of the Indian Diaspora.

FIA New England President Abhishek Singh said that India, over the years, having taken the path of democracy and unifying its cultural diversity, has come to this significant moment where its 75 years of Independence are being celebrated globally.

FIA President & Event Chair Himanshu Bhatia said it was a historical moment where the

event had been logged in the Congressional records, hoped for stronger India-US ties, and thanked everyone who made the event possible.

The event also had cultural performances from India and Nepal. Famed Indian choreographer Kush Banker enthralled the audience with his dance steps, and Life Coach and Motivational Speaker Himani from, Happiness Hub, kept them engrossed.



The Congress members addressing the event



The theme for the celebrations for the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav — celebrating 75 years of Indian Independence and the attempt at the Guinness Book of World Records for Largest Number of Flags Flown and the Largest Drum Assemble was also unveiled by the Congress members present at the event



MEMBER OF CONGRESS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY
8TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

Congressional Record

Recognizing the Federation of Indian Associations in Commemorating India's 75 Years of Independence and Honoring Asian Heritage Month

MR. KRISHNAMOORTHY: Madam Speaker, today I wish to recognize the Federation of Indian Associations (FIA) as it commemorates India's 75 years of independence as well as Asian Heritage Month. Since FIA's establishment in 1970, its mission has been to serve the Indian-American community, promote Indian cultural heritage, and advance bilateral ties between the United States and India.

Over the course of five decades, FIA has organized numerous outreach events to provide community support and to celebrate Indian culture and heritage. FIA's efforts have included consular document service assistance for over 11,000 community members, cultural dance competitions that have engaged over 19,000 children in celebration of their heritage, and an annual Diwali Soup Kitchen which has successfully distributed thousands of meals throughout the Northeastern United States. Furthermore, FIA helped to distribute personal protective equipment and hot meals to first responders and community members during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Madam Speaker, I honor the dedicated work of FIA to serve and uplift the Indian-American community, sustain the legacy of Indian heritage across generations, and foster cross-cultural cooperation and understanding. FIA's activities benefit all the communities in which its members reside, and for that, we are all grateful.

Raja Krishnamoorthi

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HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY OF ILLINOIS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2022

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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

JAMES R. LANGRIN
SECOND DISTRICT, RHODE ISLAND

ESTABLISHED 1970

Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition

Presented To

Federation of Indian Associations

In Celebration of India's 75th Year of Independence and Democracy
May 12, 2022



James R. Langrin
Member of Congress

Listen to what our
Lawmakers
have to say about the
historic event

CLICK HERE
to watch the videos



FIA committee members at the Rayburn Building, Capitol Hill Complex, Washington, D.C.

Dance performance at the May 12, 2022 Day celebration



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