



## **2015 Honoree Outstanding Individual Who Contributed Significantly to the Asian American Community**

**Satnam Singh Parhar**  
President of the India Association of Long Island (IALI) and Founder of Sant Baba Nidhan Singh Ji Cultural Society

Born in the village of Kukowal in Punjab, India, Mr. Parhar completed his Bachelors in Commerce from Punjab University, Chandigarh. Later, Mr. Parhar moved to New York City in 1976. He started boutiques which introduced high-end women's fashion in Long Island, later which turned into four major high-end women fashion boutiques. Mr. Parhar spurred a successful operation of import from India, France, Bali and Indonesia. His next and most enduring venture was in Construction and Development. Well established in the industry, Mr. Parhar has under his belt numerous successful development projects in the private, public and community sectors.

While at Punjab University, Mr. Parhar was heavily involved in various student as well as community activism. He remained General Secretary of the Student Union and was a well-regarded soccer player. Now being a resident of Long Island for almost four decades, Mr. Parhar has brought to his local community his spirit of both entrepreneurship and activism. After years of involvement with the India Association of Long Island (IALI), and having served four years as an Executive Council member, Mr. Parhar was elected as Vice-president in 2013. As of 2014 he has been serving as President for two consecutive terms. In his capacity as President, Mr. Parhar has worked to achieve establishing a permanent office and headquarters for the IALI, Lovingly and honorably called "IALI Home" by the community. Working with the Association, he has raised funds for the IALI home where cultural, educational and supportive activities for children, seniors, women and men are being nourished. Mr. Parhar spends at least 4 hours every Saturday at the IALI HOME to meet with the people from the community and address their issues.

Mr. Parhar is the founder of Sant Baba Nidhan Singh Ji Cultural Society. He is the Founder and Chairman of Rajput Cultural Society. He is an Executive Committee member of Gurdwara Sant Sagar, Bellerose. While being involved in numerous cultural associations he has organized Nagar Kirtans at Gurdwara Sant Sagar, Bellerose and Sant Baba Nidhan Singh Ji Cultural Society sponsored soccer tournaments; supported various Kabaddi tournament; organized inmate support programs in various prisons and detention centers in New York City. Mr. Parhar has personally visited various Airports, Schools, and Police Stations to educate these institutions and the public about Sikhism, specifically the Sikh turban, a much needed service.

Mr. Parhar had the esteemed honor in participating in the introduction of the New York City Workplace Religious Freedom Act in co-operation with New York City Mayor, Michael Bloomberg and accompanied by a City Councilman Mark Weprin. This year Mr. Parhar is working in co-operation with the Government of India in the fight against the worrying trend of Eve Teasing. He has organized fundraisers and election rallies to support the New York State Senator Anthony Avella, Assemblyman David Weprin, and City Councilman Mark Weprin.

Mr. Parhar enjoys running. He has participated and completed a number of NYC marathons.

Mr. Parhar is much loved by his family wife, Daljit Parhar, a Registered Nurse at Jamaica Hospital, Son, Late Dr. Ravindra (Romeo) Parhar, Daughter in Law, Dr. Sumit Parhar, grand Daughter Noor K. Parhar and Daughter Manpreet K. Parhar who is pursuing her PhD from Notre Dame University.

**7th Annual Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration**

May 9, 2015 SUNY Stony Brook, Charles B. Wang Center, Stony Brook, New York