

# AIPHA holds holiday banquet & business expo

Asian Media USA

CHICAGO: Association of Indian Pharmacists in America (AIPHA) hosted its Annual Holiday Banquet and Business Expo on Saturday, May 2 in the Meadows Club, Rolling Meadows, a northwest suburb of Chicago, with over 600 members and guests in attendance.

The Banquet was attended by dignitaries including Consul General of Chicago Dr Ausaf Sayeed, Air India chief Nakul Chand, J. Stewart from Department of Prof Regulation, Dr Yash Amin, Director of Drug Compliance, L T. Gov Brian Colgan, Hanover Park Mayor Rodney Craig Chief of Staff of Lieutenant Governor, Brian Colgan, Nimesh Jani, Elected Trustee of Schaumburg Township, Hardik Bhatt, Chief Information Officer of the State of Illinois and State Representatives Marcus Evans, Michelle Mussman, Tom Morrison.

Snehal Bhavsar, AIPHA Board of Director, invited all dignitaries on stage for lamp



lighting. This was followed by Chief Guest Speech by Consulate General of India Dr Ausaf Sayeed and Keynote Speech by Jay Stewart.

Bollywood actress Hrishita Bhatt, known for her roles in Asoka, Haasil, and many other movies, performed a dance number. The audience response was loud and enthusiastic. Hrishita's dance was the entertainment hit of the evening.

Snehal Bhavsar, AIPHA Board of Director, invited President Harish Bhatt on stage. Harish Bhat said, "I want to recognize and congratulate all the pharmacists present tonight." He underlined problems faced by independent pharmacists with the changing landscape and the conversion of Illinois citizens from the Medicaid and Medicare programs to managed care organizations.

There is such a disparity in payment systems. The State of Illinois says the Medicaid budget is going up every year, and since it cannot control the drug cost, the first thing that is done is to cut Independent pharmacists fees. Independent pharmacists get near zero fees, but chains get paid up to \$8 to fill a prescription, he observed.

Despite the hard times faced by pharmacists, the attendance was up. "This year the turnout is more than before because people enjoy networking and being involved," said Bharat Mehta, accountant for AIPHA.

Cont'd on page 19



## Shirish Sanghavi of Indian Groceries & Spices passes away

RAMESH SOPARAWALA

CHICAGO: Shirish Sanghavi, a prominent Indian American businessman and a pioneer in Indian grocery business, died on April 29 at the age of 70 from a massive heart attack. He was playing his favorite racquet ball game with his friends when he complained of chest pain. He was rushed to the Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, IL where he breathed his last.

Sanghavi is survived by wife Premila, two sons Nilesh and Nirav, and Nirav's wife, Bibhuti.

From a young age, Sanghavi, an engineer, was always a high-energy person who loved to start his own business. His entrepreneurial instinct and business skills enabled him to establish Indian Groceries and Spices out of its Skokie, IL location. He was the foremost wholesale trader in Indian spices and grocery items for over 40 years.



Shirish Sanghavi

Founder, Owner and President of IGS, Inc. Shirish Sanghavi catered to the increasing appetite of the growing Indian population in the United States. Apart from the warehouse and office in Skokie, IL IGS has offices in New Jersey, Houston, Los Angeles, Milwaukee and Toronto, Canada.

Due to its excellent quality, NIRAV the brand name for most IGS products, is a household and trusted brand in the community. Sanghavi was also active in charitable works and loved games and sports.

Services were held Saturday May the 2nd between 9 and 11 am at Countryside Funeral Home, 950 South Bartlett Road (at Stearns Rd.), Bartlett, IL 60103. A large number of well wishers, friends, business associates and members of Chicago community at large gathered at the venue to pay their last respects to the departed soul.

## FIA SENIOR WING AT FREMONT HINDU TEMPLE

*Welcomes*

Seniors to our meetings every  
**2<sup>ND</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup> MONDAYS** of the month, from  
11.30 A.M at the Fremont Temple.

Lots of information on social and general topics and participation in the issues of the day .

Celebration of festivals on grand scale to keep us all in touch with our motherland

*!! Come have fun with us !!*

Lunch, courtesy Hindu Temple Fremont ,  
Delaware St. Fremont

**CO-ORDINATOR: KAMAL SAHNEY**  
FOR ANY QUESTIONS CALL  
**510-219-5129**