

### Valia of Indiana honored with 'Jewel of Punjab' Award

SURENDRA ULLAL

HIGHLAND, IN: Dr. Hardarshan Singh Valia, a coal scientist, an author and poet of Highland Indiana, USA, was selected as one of the 100 leading Global Punjabi Personalities to be included in an exclusive book "Jewels of Punjab" that was recently released in a special ceremony presided by India's former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in New Delhi,

Dr Valia won his placement in the book because of his extraordinary achievements in both Science and Arts. He is a world renowned coal scientist as well as truly a chronicler of life's journey as expressed via the medium of stories, essays, and poetry.

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### Grand Christmas Gala held in Chicago

MADHU PATEL

CHICAGO: A glittering evening of melodious Christmas carols, dazzling dance presentations, inspiring remarks and uplifting yuletide sermon marked the Grand Christmas Banquet celebrations organized by South Asian Christian Cultural Association [SACCA] on Friday, December 15 at the Meadows Convention Center in Rolling Meadows, drawing a large number of members and their families and children to celebrate Christmas.

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### Domestic violence theme at Suzy's Place Gala

SURESH BODIWALA

CHICAGO: Suzy's Place held its First Winter Gala last week at Pearl Banquets in Roselle, a north west suburb of Chicago, theming the very serious issue of domestic violence, and what it takes to fix it. After a Capella performance of the national anthem, the evening kicked off with the high-energy acrobatics of the world-famous Jesse White Tumblers.

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# COMMUNITY ACROSS AMERICA



## Hindi lovers start 'Chai Aur Gapshap'

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## Real-estate professionals discuss impact of tax reforms

India Post News Service

CHICAGO: The Association of South Asian Real Estate Professionals (ASARP) held its second annual gathering on December 15 at The Meadows Club in Rolling Meadows, a North West suburb of Chicago.

Main purpose of the program, according to Kantibhai Patel, vice president and program co-ordinator, was to discuss new proposed tax reforms and their ramifications explained by reputed legal and industrial professionals for guideline, input, panel discussion, QA sessions and networking. The secondary objective was to provide a forum for interaction among South Asian real estate professionals and the communities that they represent, with some degree and education mixed with entertainment.

The event was attended by a good number of active members, guests and dignitaries including Indian Consul General Ms Neeta Bhushan, Erica Harold, a candidate for State Attorney General office in Illinois, Tim Schneider, Chairman of State's Republican Party, Dr Sapan Shah Republican candidate for the US Congress for 10th District, Pam



ASARP members, including Kantibhai Patel, Pradeep Shukla and others

Krieter, CEO of the Real Estate profession, Nancy Suvarnamani, Past President of Chicago Association of Realtors, Thomas Krettler, Donna

upon past and the revised tax codes. He said, "As we all acknowledge the US tax systems were revised in 1986. After sporadic modifying legisla-

taxes are among the highest in the world, tempting US corporate giants to park the funds outside the country amounting to be in trillions of dollars. Second is the high death tax of 45% at federal level with additional incidence of about 15 to 18% at the state level. With this revision in mind, Trump administration introduced "Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017," he said.

The principal changes center around simplicity and tax reduction while keeping in mind the principle of neutrality. The bill passed in both houses with minor variations. Now in a proposed reconciled bill, there are some significant provisions that will affect real estate industry like capping property tax deduction to \$10,000, restricting mortgage interest deduction to new loans of \$500,000 as against current limit of \$1 million, reducing marginal tax rates at all the levels of income, 100% write off of some business assets and significant reduction of corporate tax, etc.

*The principal changes center around simplicity and tax reduction while keeping in mind the principle of neutrality. The bill passed in both houses with minor variations*

Wilson, Nimesh Jani and Brian Bernardino.

After the lamp lighting ceremony, Pradeep B. Shukla, President ASARP, touched

tions and lapsed time, it needed massive overhaul and re-organization. Some of these regulations are regressive. For instance, the US corporate



Cultural performances by local artists

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