

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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Jersey City to Celebrate the Anniversary of India's Independence with Parade and Festival

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy, the Municipal Council and the Division of Cultural Affairs will proudly celebrate the **Indo-American Senior Citizens' Association of Hudson County's 64th Anniversary of India's Independence** during the **Indo-American Parade and Festival** on **Saturday, August 14, 2010**.

The **Indo-American Parade and Festival** will kick off at **11:00 a.m.** from **Leonard Gordon Park** at 3359 Kennedy Boulevard and Manhattan Avenue and will end in the **Indian Market** on Newark Avenue and Kennedy Blvd. The festival, part of the city's *Tapestry of Nations Ethnic Festival Series*, will consist of traditional Indian music and dance, as well as a cultural and religious program. This year, Mayor Healy will march as the Grand Marshall in the parade.

"The Indo-American Parade and Festival showcases the rich traditions and heritage of the Indian people," said **Mayor Healy**. "This is truly a remarkable celebration that highlights the very best that our great city has to offer."

Sponsored by the **Indo-American Senior Citizens' Association of Hudson County**, citizens of the Indian community are recognized for their civic duties and dedication to the community. The contributions of the Indian-American community in the fields of education, politics, religion, culture, science, industry, and business have helped shape Jersey City with its waves of recent immigration. These accomplishments have unquestionably been an important asset to Jersey City and are worthy of commendation. Among those deserving of recognition are: **Divya Jyoti Jagrati Sansthan, Ghanshyam Parikh, Rashmi Rawtani, and Dr. Binal Solanki**.

India's Independence Day is celebrated on August 15 to commemorate its independence from the British rule and its birth as a sovereign nation on that day in 1947. It involved a wide spectrum of Indian political organizations, philosophies, and rebellions between 1857 and India's emergence as a unified nation-state which exemplifies the principles of fairness, dignity, peace and democracy.

This anniversary observance reaffirms the dedication of the Indian people all around the world to the highest ideals of democracy and freedom. It is a celebration that recognizes the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi whose philosophy of non-violence was used in very creative ways, including Gandhi's famous march to the sea to make salt. This march was a precursor to the civil rights marches in the United States. India's independence was achieved and pledged to the principles of fairness, dignity, peace and democracy.

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On **August 23, 2010**, the flags of the United States and India will be displayed high above City Hall in recognition of the cherished cultural and ethnic diversity of our community. It is also a reflection of our City's strong relationship with the local Indian community. The flag of India is raised to honor the people of India for their struggle for Independence.

For more information about the Indo-American Festival, please contact Cultural Affairs at (201) 547-6921.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.///