



L-R: Sunil Puri, Farooq Kathwari, Amardeep Singh.

Three Indian Americans appointed to advisory commission

Washington, DC: US President Barack Obama has appointed three eminent Indian Americans to key administration posts as members of his advisory panel on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, a body aimed at increasing participation of the over 16 million-strong community in federal programs. "Our nation will be well-served by the skill and dedication these men and women bring to their new roles. I look forward to working with them in the months and years ahead," Obama said in a statement after he announced the appointment of members to the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

The three Indian Americans appointed to the commission are Farooq Kathwari, chairman, president and CEO of Ethan Allen Interiors; Sunil Puri, president and sole owner of First Rockford Group, Inc, a real estate development firm he founded in 1984; and Amardeep Singh, co-founder and presently director of Programs at Sikh Coalition, the US' largest Sikh civil rights organization, the White House said on September 16. Kathwari, who has been president of Ethan Allen Interiors since 1985 and its chairman and CEO since 1988, serves on many non-profit bodies, including as the chair of the Kashmir Study Group; a

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Outstanding individuals honored Bevy of politicians grace IADO 31st annual gala

BY ASIAN MEDIA USA
Skokie, IL: More than 650 people came together to celebrate 31 years of political advocacy and empowerment of the Indian American Democratic Organization (IADO), at its annual gala at the Holiday Inn here on September 12.

The attendees included Governor Pat Quinn, Attorney General Lisa Madigan, Congressman Danny Davis, Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, Cook County Circuit Court Clerk Dorothy Brown, Alderman Ed Smith, Alderman Bernard Stone, State Representative Robyn Gabel, and Chairman of the Democratic Party of Dupage Robert Peickert.

IADO was founded in March of 1980. Its mission is to lobby on behalf of the Indian American community on issues of immigration, affirmative action, education,



Congressman Danny Davis presenting a plaque to community activist Ranjit Ganguli while IADO president Ram Gujjela looks on; Inset: Illinois Governor Pat Quinn addressing the distinguished guests.



social security, health-care reform and hate crimes. It also strives to get Indian Americans participate in the political process from voting to running for office.

The evening began with Kaushal Khambhati, Tejas Shastry, Manvinder Kumar,

Cristina Thomas, Mohini Kundu, and Anjali Lodhavia singing the Indian and American national anthems.

IADO president Ram Gujjela welcomed the gathering and thanked guests for their support over the years. He has been involved with IADO for

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Devotees offer \$2 million in interest-free loan

Jain Society Chicago celebrates Paryushan Mahaparva

BY VIPUL SHAH
Chicago: The eight-day long festival — Paryushan Mahaparva — was celebrated at Jain Society of Metropolitan Chicago (JSMC) from September 4.

Paryushan Mahaparva is a festival of Dharma Aaradhana. During these eight days, Jains follow total non-violence, love, compassion,



and fasting. The festival ordains the Jains to observe the 10 universal supreme virtues in daily practical life. The non-Jains also express high reverence for this Jain

festival.

Well known scholar Swami Shri Srutpragyaiji of Peace of Mind Institution of Rajkot, Gujarat, India, delivered lecture series throughout eight days both morning and evening. Chosen topics were very appropriate for day-to-day life, and kept about 800-1000 people on daily basis seated in the main auditori-

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Committee members of JSMC; Inset: Swami Srutpragyaiji.

Learn English

Amitabh: "E lo kar lo baat. Are aisi angrezi ave hain ke I can leave angrez behind. I can talk English, I can walk English, I can laugh English, because English is a funny language. We must take this into consideration." Our obsession with the English language has served us brilliantly. It has kept us united as a nation; it has contributed significantly to the social mobility of Indians; it has been a major factor in our recent success in the global economy.



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Lakmé fashion week

Five designers, who stand apart from their counterparts not just because they are talented but they have found their signature design aesthetic and have carried it forward successfully. Nachikat Barve feels every designer should have his unique design signature. Anuj Sharma's genius lies in his approach of creating an innovative design using the simplest approach. Rahul Mishra's name has become synonymous with handloom. Swapnil Shinde's garments are glamorous and futuristic. Aneeth Arora has remained true to eco-conscious fashion.



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