



INDIA COMMUNITY RELIGIOUS & CULTURAL CENTER, INC. (ICRCC)

A non-profit organization founded in 1984
 1990 Meadowbrook Drive, Syracuse, NY 13224

www.icrcc.org | www.facebook.com/ICRCC | email: shridevi@icrcc.org

January 2026

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Upcoming ICRCC Events Summary:

Event	Date	Place	Contact	Additional Notes
Republic Day	25-Jan-2026	India Center	Falguni Vora	See details here
General Body Meeting (GBM)	08-Feb-2026	India Center	Shridevi Karikehalli	See details here

President's Message

Dear friends:

As the year draws to a close, we reflect on the moments that brought our community together. Bringing together the vibrant Indian community has always been at the heart of ICRC, and this year was no exception. We hosted a variety of events and high-quality music performances – from classical to Bollywood – showcasing the rich cultural traditions of India. We also continued to provide a platform to encourage and highlight local talent. Please see details of all our events in this newsletter.

Times have certainly changed. Gone are the days when families and friends gathered to watch Indian movies by renting DVDs. Today, entertainment is available at our fingertips, and with a growing community and diverse interests, coming together is no longer as effortless as it once was. Nonetheless, ICRC continues to focus on creating shared cultural experiences—now more important than ever.

We notice that our membership numbers have not grown as much as we would like. We encourage you to become a member and support the organization. All ICRC members in good standing are invited to attend and participate in the Annual General Body Meeting (GBM) on Sunday, February 8, 2026 – [details inside](#).

Going forward, several board members will be completing their successful terms. We invite enthusiastic individuals to join our dedicated, hard-working team and help shape the next chapter of our organization. Please contact our [Nominations Committee](#) if you are interested.

We also encourage community members to utilize the India Center for celebrating personal events. Please reach out to us for details on how to reserve the Center.

In addition, we are excited to share that we received a \$17,200 grant from the Reller Family Fund at the CNY Community Foundation (CNYCF) to improve the heating and cooling in our basement, making the space more comfortable for everyone. Thank you to the Reller family and CNYCF!

We wish you and your family a very happy, healthy and a prosperous New Year.

Thank you.

Shridevi Karikehalli

President, ICRC | shridevi@icrc.org

Connect with us:

email: shridevi@icrc.org

facebook: www.facebook.com/ICRC/

Written material can be mailed to:

ICRC
1990 Meadowbrook Drive
Syracuse, NY 13224

Membership Information

If you are already a member of ICRC, **THANK YOU** – we sincerely appreciate your ongoing support. It validates our mission of sharing India’s rich heritage with the larger Central New York community.

As a 100% volunteer-run organization, we try to maximize the impact of your membership funds by planning a wide variety of events throughout the year to serve our community.

If you are not a member, please consider joining to enjoy the following benefits:

- attend ICRC events at reduced rates
- attend the General Body Meeting (GBM)
- shape the future of ICRC by becoming a board member

Membership details are shown below.

ICRC Membership

● Regular Yearly Membership:	Family = \$75,	Single = \$50
● Permanent Membership:	Family = \$1500,	Single = \$1000

Payment options:

- Online: icrc.org (preferred)
- Mail: ICRC, 1990 Meadowbrook Drive, Syracuse, NY 13224

If you have any questions, please contact:
Sanjay Sreenivasa Murthy: sanjayon19@gmail.com

ICRC is a Not-for-Profit Corporation under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Your donations and contributions to ICRC may be tax deductible. Kindly check with your tax advisor.

Update on ICRCC Events

India Day Picnic

by Anirban Acharya

On the gorgeous summer afternoon of August 16th, 2025, ICRCC celebrated the 79th year of Indian Independence from British rule at the Long Branch Park in Liverpool, NY.

India's Independence Day is not only a celebration of freedom but is also an emblem of tireless struggles against colonialism, and a commitment towards justice and equality for all.

We had an exceptionally large turnout this year with families and friends participating generously in singing, playing instruments, and bringing a myriad of delectable cuisines from around the subcontinent. Most notable was the enthusiasm of children who not only enjoyed singing, dancing and reciting, but also had a lovely time playing in the beautiful park. All in all the event demonstrated what is so magnificent and unique about India, - it's a powerful display of unity through diversity.



We also admire and celebrate the selfless contribution of so many members of the Indian diaspora whose tireless help and engagement made this event a resounding success.

Our sincere thanks for all who made this event entertaining as well as educational. Together, we look forward to this and many such events in future.



An Afternoon of Rare Ragas: Sarod and Tabla at ICRCC

by Jayant Datta

On Sunday afternoon, 05 October 2025, about 50 listeners from across the greater Central New York area gathered at ICRCC's India Center for a Hindustani classical music concert featuring Swarnendu Mandal on sarod, accompanied by Ehren Hanson on tabla. The intimate



setting proved ideal for a program centered on rare ragas and nuanced musical dialogue.

Hailing from Kolkata, India, Swarnendu Mandal is a 25-year-old sarod virtuoso who trained under the legendary Pandit Buddhadev Dasgupta of the Senia Shahjahanpur Gharana. This performance marked his second appearance in Syracuse, returning to the city where he made his US concert debut in October 2023.

Accompanying him on tabla was New York City-based Ehren Hanson, a disciple of Pandit Anindo Chatterjee since 1999. A representative of the [Farrukhabad gharana](#), Mr Hanson brought both authority and warmth to the performance, demonstrating rhythmic finesse and deep sensitivity throughout. His address to the audience in fluent Bengali created a moment of genuine connection that was warmly received.

The program opened with Raga Gorakh Kalyan, an infrequently performed [raga](#), which unfolded with patience and clarity through a meditative [alap](#) and carefully shaped phrases. A lively *sawaal-jawaab* (question-answer) showcased the duo's mastery and accelerating momentum as the piece built to a thrilling crescendo that left the audience wanting more.

The second half began with an engaging tabla solo that immediately energized the room. The concert's centerpiece was Raga Malgunji (Malkunji) – a very old and rarely performed raga that Mr Mandal has been studying closely for some time. Its understated beauty emerged gradually through expressive and subtle ornamentation, supported by Mr Hanson's responsive and imaginative accompaniment.

Overall, the afternoon offered a thoughtful and rewarding musical experience. By presenting uncommon ragas with care, scholarship, and quiet confidence, Mr Mandal and Mr Hanson left a lasting impression and reaffirmed ICRCC's place as an important home for serious Indian classical music in the region.

Music Event

by Chilukuri K. Mohan

On September 13, 2025, ICRCC organized a music celebration at the India Center, featuring various singers and musicians from our own community. The event included several Bollywood songs sung to Karaoke tracks, as well as talented instrumental music performances, including guitar, violin, tabla, harmonium, and keyboard. Several members of the audience stepped forward in the latter part of the program, and demonstrated their considerable skills. Performers included some students and children from our community. The evening was enjoyed by an audience of about 80 people. In addition to many solos, a few duets were also performed, as well as joint performances by artistes who had not previously played or sung together on stage. Special thanks to Falguni Vora for conducting the program, and Jayant Datta for a flawless audio setup.

Bollywood Concert: Maestros and Melodies

by Falguni Vora

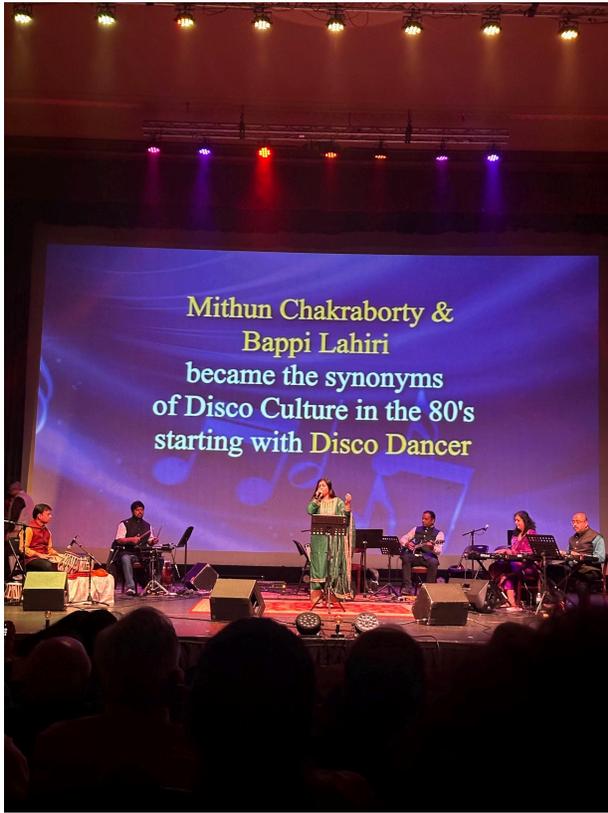


For most fans, Bollywood holds the same significance as religion or culture. It is an integral part of life; social norms and Bollywood trends often go together. And when it comes to movies, they are incomplete without music. So having a Bollywood concert in our own town was nothing less than a privilege.

On November 4th, 2025, ICRCC hosted a Bollywood concert called “Maestros and Melodies” directed by Milind Oak. The event consisted of 12 artists including singers, instrumentalists, and a narrator. Palace Theater was the most suitable location for this event because of the technology, sound system, and capacity it could offer. Despite it being a weekday, it was very encouraging to see 150 people in the audience.

The lineup of the items did full justice to the title of the program – Maestros and Melodies. The artists covered practically every music director’s most famous melodies starting from the 1950's to modern numbers. The narration provided a beautiful background and rich history of Bollywood’s musical journey. It

was a very entertaining combination of melodious singing, a live orchestra, high-tech backdrop visuals, and an interesting chronicle of stories related to the evergreen, timeless music compositions.



Overall, the whole event was high intensity, captivating and entertaining. A huge Bollywood buff and big fan of its music like me would love to see such events right in our neck of the woods.



Diwali

by Sunil Gupta



We celebrated Diwali on November 25th at the Oncenter. It was a joyful and vibrant event, bringing families and friends together to celebrate the Festival of Lights. The evening featured cultural performances, festive decorations, delicious food, music and dancing, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

We were honored to have County Executive Ryan McMahon and Congressman John Mannion. The Diya Lighting was performed by Dr. Ramesh Gaonkar.

We thank all the volunteers, performers, and attendees who made the celebration a success and helped spread the true spirit of Diwali --unity, joy, and the triumph of light over darkness.



Christmas

by Anirban Acharya

Our Christmas party, held on Saturday, December 13, 2025, was a heartwarming celebration that brought our community together in the true spirit of the season. We all had a wonderful time with joy and laughter filling the air especially with the children having lots of fun. The excitement of our artists and participants showed us why we do this in the first place and how fulfilling it is to come together. Event highlights included children's participation, dances, Christmas carols, Santa's visit, and refreshments.



Everyone enjoyed Bharatanatyam dances by Sanvi Satishkumar to "Shape of You classical version" and "Western Note," vibrant dance by Sachith and Yuvanith Chakravarthy, and dance to the iconic song "Apsara Aali" by Alizeh, Kaia, Pari, Sanvi and Anvee from Jhanakaar Rhythms dance community. Santa Claus made a special appearance, giving out candy to children while asking fun questions.

Light refreshments and snacks were generously provided by our wonderful members, adding to the festive cheer. Donation boxes were set up for those wishing to contribute to future community events.



Building Committee Report

by Kishan Mehrotra

We are pleased to report that we received a \$17,200 grant from the CNY Community Foundation (CNYCF) to improve heating and cooling in the basement. The upgrade was scheduled to take place on Wednesday, January 7, 2026 and the heating/cooling improvements have already been carried out. This upgrade will significantly enhance comfort and usability of the space for all.

Overview

The age of the building presents ongoing maintenance challenges but by doing routine repairs we have kept the building functional and safe. However, several areas require attention to enhance continued usability and long-term sustainability.

Basement Flooring

The basement flooring needs replacement. Due to age and wear, and by joining the two basement rooms the current flooring is no longer in optimal condition; it is patchy and requires tiles along the wall that was most recently fixed. Installing new flooring would improve appearance, safety, and overall usability of the basement space.

Storage Needs

The committee has identified a growing need for additional storage. Existing storage areas are limited and no longer sufficient to meet current needs. One option under consideration is the purchase of an external storage unit or shed to improve organization and reduce interior clutter. Further evaluation will be needed to determine the most appropriate solution and scope of work.

Recommendations

The Building Committee recommends the following actions:

- Plan for replacement of the basement flooring.
- Explore options for additional storage, including the possible purchase of a storage unit or shed.
- Side entrance is unpleasant, and use of the doorknob is problematic -- improve the side entrance as needed.
- The lock on the utility door, that provides access to gas, water, and electric in case of emergency, is inappropriate. It should be removed.
- Need to block off the vent in the kitchen more esthetically. Currently, it is blocked with thin foil which is already tattered and not as effective in preventing warm air from kitchen migrating out.

We also need to clear unused material—such as old tubes, wood, and paint cans—to ensure unobstructed access to utility shut-offs. Let's schedule this removal for our Spring Cleaning/Earth Day event to improve the building's condition and safety.

Respectfully submitted,
Building Committee

Details on Upcoming Events

Republic Day



General Body Meeting (GBM)

Date: Sunday, 08-Feb-2026

Time: 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Location: India Center, 1990 Meadowbrook Dr, Syracuse, NY 13224

ICRCC Board and Committee Members

Executive Board Members

Shridevi Karikehalli	shridevi@icrcc.org	(President)
Kishan Mehrotra	mehrotra@syr.edu	(Vice President)
Jayant Datta	icrcc.fin@gmail.com	(Treasurer)
Falguni Vora	falguni@icrcc.org	(Secretary)

Board Members

Anirban Acharya	anirban.acharya@gmail.com
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Jayshri Prasad	jayashriprasad2000@yahoo.com
Ashok Sangani	asangani@syr.edu
Pardeep Zirath	pkzirath@yahoo.com

Committees

Building: Kishan Mehrotra (Chair), Sunil Gupta, Hemant Kale, Chilukuri Mohan, Sanjay Sreenivasa Murthy, Jayshri Prasad, Ashok Sangani

Bylaws: Shalabh Maroo (Chair)

Cultural: Falguni Vora (Chair), Jayant Datta, Indu Gupta, Chilukuri Mohan, Bandaru Ramarao, Pardeep Zirath

Finance: Jayant Datta (Chair), Ajeet Gajra, Hemant Kale, Ashok Sangani

Grants: Shalabh Maroo (Chair), Anirban Acharya, Jayant Datta, Indu Gupta

Membership: Sanjay Sreenivasa Murthy

Newsletter: Ramesh Gaonkar (Chair), Jayant Datta, Chilukuri Mohan, Kishan Mehrotra

Nominations: Vishnu Sishtla (Co-Chair), Surabhi Raina (Co-Chair)

Website: Sunil Gupta (Chair), Shalabh Maroo

The President is an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominations Committee

Connect with us:

email: shridevi@icrcc.org

facebook: www.facebook.com/ICRCC/

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