



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

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

[www.icrcc.org](http://www.icrcc.org) — [www.facebook.com/ICRCC](https://www.facebook.com/ICRCC) — email: [mohan@syr.edu](mailto:mohan@syr.edu)

May 26, 2026

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Event	Date	Place	Contact
Spring Festival	June 7	Lincoln Middle School	Falguni, Jayshri
India Day	August 15	Bay View Shelter, Onondaga Lake Park.	
Diwali	November 14	Oncenter	
Christmas	December 12	India Center	

# 1 President's Message

Welcome to our beautiful spring season!

A train is stopping for just a few minutes at Begumpet Station, and an old man is trying to get off the train, carefully stepping down backwards, but the impatient crowds think he is trying to board the train, and push him in. He is happy, anyway, to be going somewhere. And I'm glad to serve as IC RCC President in 2026.

I would first like to thank Shridevi for her marvelous leadership of the past three years—she continues to be actively involved in the IC RCC Board, and in leading various activities. Many thanks also to those who succeeded in getting off the train, i.e., stepped down from the Board recently: Jayant, Sunil, Hemant, Ashok, Shalabh, Ajeet, and Indu; their years of experience and hard work will be truly missed. Many more thanks to our new Board members: Suman, Anirban, Priyanka, Poonam, Sonal, Pasha, and Rinki; the latter two joined the Board in May 2026, filling two of the three vacancies. We need one more Board member! How about you?

For those who don't know me, I've been a member of IC RCC since I started teaching at SU in 1988 (when Kishan recruited me), and this is my third round of Board membership. The previous time I was President was in the year "2BB" (2 years before the IC RCC building was purchased), when life was much simpler. What's new? Our own building, many more events and activities, and (most important) a stronger sense of community. If you haven't yet joined as IC RCC member, now's the time to partake of what a community can provide, and you also have a chance to leave a mark on the place (but no graffiti, please).

We're off to a very good start this year, with a well-attended Holi celebration and an exhilarating Bollywood music and dance event. We've also had a few "game nights" at the Center, as well as weekly Yoga classes for beginners. Coming up soon is our Spring Festival; join us!

I had joined IC RCC even when there was no direct economic advantage, because having a strong organization is good for the community, especially for older folks who get to gab with each other and children who get to show off their skills. Savvy observers have also figured out that they save money by becoming members: ticket prices at each of our events (and building reservations) cost significantly less for members. Be with us in all our activities, and please suggest how best to use our building and resources—there's lot more we can do, with your help!

Sincerely,  
Chilukuri K. Mohan  
President, IC RCC

Connect with us:  
email: [mohan@syr.edu](mailto:mohan@syr.edu)  
facebook: [www.facebook.com/ICRCC/](http://www.facebook.com/ICRCC/)  
Written material can be mailed to:

IC RCC  
1990 Meadowbrook Drive  
Syracuse, NY 13224

## 2 Membership Information

If you are already a member of ICRCC, 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 ICRCC events at reduced rates
- attend the General Body Meeting (GBM)
- shape the future of ICRCC by becoming a board member

Membership details are shown below

### ICRCC MEMBERSHIP

Regular Yearly Membership:	Family – \$75	Single – \$50
Permanent Membership:	Family – \$1500	Single – \$1000

Online payment preferred.

If you have any questions, please contact:

**Priyanka Kaul:** kaulpri@upstate.edu

ICRCC is a not-for-profit Corporation under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue code. Your donations and contributions to ICRCC may be tax deductible. Kindly consult your Tax advisor.

## 3 Update on ICRCC Events

### 3.1 General Body Meeting by Falguni Vora

General Body Meeting of our organization was held on February 8, 2026 at India Center. The meeting started at 2:15 PM

- **Quorum:** Quorum was met as we had more than 36 members present at the start of the meeting
- **Welcome:** Shridevi started the meeting with the President's welcome message. She introduced the board members and thanked the members for coming on a severely cold day.
- **Secretary Report:** Falguni presented the secretary's report. She identified members of the executive committee, the board members along with all the core committees. She went over the current status of membership and emphasized on spreading the word to community to become ICRCC members. Additionally, all the events held by ICRCC in 2025 were covered in the presentation with details and pictures.
- **Building Report:** Kishan presented the Building Committee report. It included details on the HVAC system installation as well as the improvements made throughout the year.
- **Finance Report:** Jayant presented the Treasurer's report, and highlighted the key income sources and expenses of the Year 2025. The report included the net account, comparative charts with previous years, and effect of Grant money on the accounts.
- **Nominations:** On behalf of Nomination committee, Surabhi Raina chaired this item. There were seven vacancies in the board and six nominations consisting of Jayashri Prasad, Anirban Acharya, Sonal Trivedi, Priyanka Kaul, Poonam Rani and Suman Swarnkar. All nominees introduced themselves and shared their views on how they think they will contribute to ICRCC. All six nominations was approved unanimously.
- **Conclusion:** Shridevi concluded the meeting by thanking the nomination committee for their work, community for their support, and exiting board members for their contribution

### 3.2 Holi by Suman Swarnkar

Holi, the vibrant Festival of Colors marking the arrival of spring, was celebrated by our Indian community in Syracuse on April 12, 2026. The event featured an energetic program of songs and dances performed by our talented young students. Later, everyone enjoyed dancing and grooving to the excellent music provided by our very own DJ Anirban. Finger-licking food, prepared by our many dedicated volunteers, was next on the menu. A symbolic Holika Dahan was performed outdoors, reinforcing the message of the victory of good over evil. A kaleidoscope of colors emerged as children, families, and friends smeared gulal on one another. This festive spirit made it a memorable day for all ages and allowed us to pass our rich culture on to the next generation. We left the celebration feeling truly refreshed and joyous.





### 3.3 A Bollywood Musical Journey by Priyanka Kaul

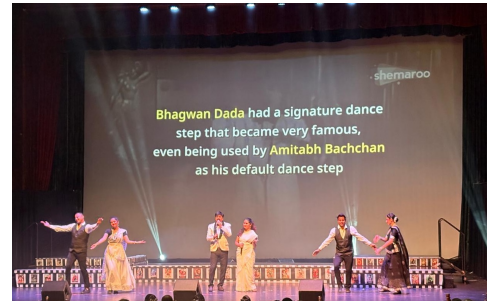
Back in Syracuse for the third time by popular demand!

On May 2nd, ICRC presented a scintillating Bollywood performance at The Palace Theater, drawing an enthusiastic crowd from the local desi community. The group's previous show in November 2025 had already created quite a buzz, attracting a large audience despite the bitter weekday cold. This time, Syracuse once again turned out in full force – on yet another chilly day, this time on a May weekend – with approximately 200 attendees filling the venue.

The show, **Trend setters – A Bollywood Musical Journey**, was a spectacular dramatized celebration of music and dance, featuring over 100 songs spanning 112 years of Bollywood cinema, from 1913 to 2025. Directed by Milind Oak, the production took audiences on a nostalgic time-travel experience through some of the most beloved songs in Indian film history.

Guided by the spirit of Bollywood past and present – portrayed with charm and panache by Nachiket Devasthali – the evening blended shayari, humor, music, and dance into an immersive cultural experience. The audience was captivated throughout, with many joyfully singing along to their favorite classics, transported back to a bygone era.

It was truly a memorable night for Syracuse, once again showcasing the community's enduring love for the magic of Bollywood.



### 3.4 Game Nights

by Chilukuri K. Mohan

"Game nights" are being organized at the ICRCC Center to bring everyone together, no matter their age or background. The first such evening was a great success. As the evening settled in, tables filled quickly with familiar faces and a few newcomers. The soft shuffle of cards and the deliberate movement of chess pieces created a rhythm of its own. Newcomers enjoyed improving bridge bidding and learning how to play chess. A variety of other games added to the lively atmosphere, in particular Carroms and Scrabble. People wandered from table to table, sometimes stepping in to join a game, other times simply watching and chatting. The sense of community was as important as the games themselves; it was a space where stories were shared. Everyone left feeling a little more connected than when they arrived.

Please let us know if you would like to attend in future, any other specific games you would like (e.g., Ping Pong), and which evenings may work best for you to attend frequently. We have tried this out on a couple of Mondays and a Friday, with 10-15 attendees including some children and some adults. If there is sufficient interest, we could also organize a tournament focused on one game at a time. Now that it is summer, is anyone up for outside sports such as badminton and tennis ball cricket?

### 3.5 Cricket

by Sanjay Murthy

The ICRCC in Syracuse, NY, proudly organized a live streaming event of the T20 World Cup final between India and New Zealand. The gathering brought together a wonderful crowd of cricket lovers from the Syracuse community, all united by their excitement and passion for the game.

The atmosphere throughout the event was truly electric. Guests enjoyed an exciting match experience filled with cheers, friendly support, and strong encouragement for Team India, while also appreciating the spirited performance of the New Zealand team. The event was made even more special by the delicious homemade food lovingly brought and shared by volunteers and supporters, adding warmth and a true community feel to the occasion.

Most importantly, the celebration became even more joyful as India emerged victorious winning by 96 runs to claim the championship title for the third time, making it a proud and unforgettable moment for everyone present.

ICRCC is delighted by the enthusiastic response and looks forward to organizing similar events in the future to bring together more members of the Indian community and cricket enthusiasts across the region.



### **3.6 Atha: Yoga at ICRCC by Priyanka Kaul**

ICRCC hosted the inaugural spring series of Atha: Yoga this April. Atha: Yoga gets its name from the first phrase of Yoga Sutras of Patanjali - Atha: Yoganushasanam. In its most simplified form it is a call to "now, (we begin) the discipline of Yoga." The series was immensely well received by the community – for 7 weeks, members of the community got together to practice yoga on Wednesdays for an hour. As the community explored beginner yoga poses, one thing that was most noticeable each week was the growing "Maitri" in the space. Maitri is derived from the word mitra, meaning "friend," and features as lovingkindness, benevolence and compassion in Indian philosophical traditions (Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism).

It is this "Maitri" that remains the driving force of this experience, and the group will restart in June-July for the Summer Series.

ICRCC hopes to keep this ancient practice going for free in its premises - please stay tuned for future offerings.

## 4 Community News

### 4.1 Congratulations to our Graduating Students!!

Hearty congratulations from ICRCC to all the graduating students! On behalf of ICRCC, we proudly extend our heartfelt congratulations to all the graduating students in our community. We celebrate your success with great pride. As you move forward, may you continue to strive for excellence, serve as an inspiration to others, and make meaningful contributions to society. Always remember that your community stands behind you and believes in your bright future. We wish each of you continued success, happiness, and fulfillment in all your future endeavors.

Below is a compilation of the information about graduating students received by ICRCC.

**Sanaa Goyal** graduated from Fayetteville Manlius High School. She will be going to Columbia University. Her Intended major is Biophysics. She is in the top tier of students in her class and was engaged in basic research. She served as secretary for the CNY HOSA chapter and chaired/ organized several MUN conferences, burnishing her interest in health care and policy. She is an accomplished Bharatnatyam dancer and takes pride in representing India at various cultural events in school as well as in the region.

**Rheea Goyal** will graduate from Fayetteville Manlius High School. She will be going to Columbia University, majoring in Biomedical Engineering. She is in the top tier of students in her class, engaged in basic research, and has tremendous interest in device building, iterative process and economics. In addition, she is an accomplished clarinet player. She also takes pride in representing India at various cultural events in school.

**Aaroehi Rastogi** will complete high school this year and will be attending University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill majoring in Public Health. She is a dedicated Girl Scout for over 11 years, and has served as a National Conference delegate helping to shape national Girl Scout laws and currently leads as President of the Girl Scout Advisory Committee. She is a Gold and Silver Girl Scout Award recipient. She also serves as a United Nations advocate and delegate, having spoken at several high-profile national conferences.

Aaroshi interest in medicine is deep. She is the founder of *Health Beyond Body*, an initiative that develops curriculum and delivers mental health workshops to children in India; has also contributed to two research studies at Upstate Hospital, focusing on geriatrics and chronic lung disease, and volunteers at Crouse Hospital, gaining firsthand experience in patient care, she has been involved in the *New Visions Medical Professions* program She is a state champion in club gymnastics. In addition, she enjoys music and loves dancing to Bollywood songs.

**Nashita Juman Mohammed** will graduate with a B.S. in Biomedical Sciences and Minor in Biomedical Engineering, from the University of South Florida. Currently looking for a Job in relevant field, however, her future plan includes pursuing master's degree in Biomedical Engineering She served as Vice President of Risk Management in Alpha Sigma Kappa – Women in Technical Studies and was Bright Futures Florida Academic Scholar. She loves traveling and enjoys scientific problem-solving.

**Sahana Anand** is graduating from Syracuse University with a dual BS in Physics and Mathematics, earning Dean's List honors and recognition for academic excellence. She led her campus community as President of the Hindu Student Association and the Founder President of the Desi Performance Organization. Sahana also shared her talents directly with us, giving very engaging, graceful performances at ICRCC events. As she prepares for a future of research and travel, she continues to enjoy music, dance, and soccer.

**Saketh Kilaru** is completing his MS in Data Science at Syracuse University, graduating with Cum Laude honors. He brings valuable professional experience to the university, having worked as a data scientist at

Amazon and currently applying his skills at EY. Saketh shared his musical talents with us at ICRCC through much appreciated performances at our community events. As he steps into his next job role, he continues to enjoy soccer, singing, and playing the tabla.

**Ayush Patel** graduated from Binghamton University in December 2025 with a bachelor of science in Biology, with Cum Laude honors. He plans on applying to medical school in hopes of becoming a physician. In the mean time he plans on working as a research assistant at upstate while applying to medical schools. He enjoys snowboarding in the winter, photography, hiking and collecting vinyl records.

**Sureeta Das** is a graduating senior from Fayetteville-Manlius High School and will attend Syracuse University's Honors College as a part of the SUNY Upstate combined BS/MD program. She has been involved in various activities, such as being the president of the American Red Cross Club and starting her own club called STEM Connections. She also served as New York state Senior Vice President of the Health Occupation Students of America organization (HOSA), and vice president of the club Hornets for Hope, where she raised money for Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital. She is also a high honor student and serves as Vice President of her school's Spanish Honor Society and Treasurer of the Science Honor Society. She is a second-degree Black belt in Taekwondo, loves to do Indian dance, sing, and make art.

## 4.2 Community News

**Jnana Mandir:** Jnana Mandir is a religious and spiritual organization based in Syracuse, NY, serving a global community. It provides children and adult programming both in-person and virtually. Currently they are working on introducing youth programming as well.

Students learn variety of items including yoga, shastras, and itihahas. Currently, two virtual series are going on: –Bhagavatam and Upanishads. Details on their events are available at – <https://jnanamandir.com/>. For registration in children classes please contact [jnanamandir101@gmail.com](mailto:jnanamandir101@gmail.com)

**BAPS:** BAPS celebrates America’s 250 in Syracuse, NY. As part of this celebration a Charities Walk is organized on Saturday June 6, 2026 from 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM at Sawmill Creek Shelter Onondaga Lake Park (106 Lake Drive, Liverpool, NY). For further information – Contact: [www.BAPScharities.org](http://www.BAPScharities.org)

**Hindu Mandir of Central New York:** The Hindu Mandir of Central New York, located at 7211 State Fair Blvd, Syracuse, NY, reopened in mid-April of this year after five years of closure. The current plan is to open the temple on Sundays from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Our sincere gratitude to everyone who has contributed their time, effort, and dedication toward reopening the temple and serving the community. Update information can be found on the Mandir Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/hindumandircny.org/>

## 5 Building Committee Report

by Kishan Mehrotra

The building maintenance and presentation updates for this period have been completed successfully, with noticeable improvements in both cleanliness and overall appeal. The main hall carpet, and both sets of stairs going down, underwent a thorough professional cleaning, resulting in a significantly fresher and more presentable appearance. This has enhanced the overall atmosphere of the space, making it more welcoming for guests.



In a recent event the room downstairs was decorated which improved the visual appeal. While the decorations were modest, they made a meaningful difference in creating a more attractive and inviting environment. We may want to include such decorations in our future events to increase its desirability for gatherings and meetings.



Considering rising operational and maintenance costs, a decision has been made to increase the fee for use of the building. It will be \$200 for members and \$250 for non-members, effective immediately. This adjustment is necessary to ensure that the facility can continue to be properly maintained and improved over time. The updated pricing reflects current economic conditions while still aiming to remain fair for users of the space.

In the January newsletter the building committee made several recommendations including fixing the side entrance, address storage concern, improve the condition of the utility room, etc. We will continue to address these issues during this year.

Overall, the building remains in good condition, with ongoing efforts focused on maintaining cleanliness, inside and out, enhancing aesthetics, and ensuring financial sustainability.

Respectfully submitted,

The Building Committee

## 6 Upcoming Events

### Spring Festival



**ICRCC** 

# *Spring Festival*

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2026  
3:00 PM

LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL  
1613 JAMES ST, SYRACUSE, NY  
13203

- CULTURAL PROGRAM BY LOCAL ARTISTS
- DELICIOUS INDIAN FOOD FOR PURCHASE

**For more information:**  
**Falguni Vora (falguni@icrcc.org)**  
**Jayshri Prasad (jayashriprasad2000@yahoo.com)**

This project is made possible with funds from the County of Onondago with the support of the County Executive and administered by CNY Arts

## 7 ICRCC Board and Membership

### ICRCC Board and Committee Members

#### Executive Board Members

Chilikuri Mohan	ckmohan@syr.edu	(President)
Suman Swarnkar	suman@icrcc.org	(Vice President)
Sonal Trivedi	sonal018@gmail.com	(Treasurer)
Falguni Vora	falguni@icrcc.org	(Secretary)

#### Board Members

Anirban Acharya	anirban.acharya@gmail.com
Rinki Agarwal	rinki.agarwal@gmail.com
Shridevi Karikehalli	shridevi@icrcc.org
Priyanka Kaul	kaulpri@upstate.edu
Kishan Mehrotra	mehrotra@syr.edu
Afzal Pasha Mohammed	afzalpasham@gmail.com
Chilukuri Mohan	mohan@syr.edu
Sanjay Sreenivasa Murthy	sanjayon19@gmail.com
Jayshri Prasad	jayashriprasad2000@yahoo.com
Poonam Rani	poonamrani97@gmail.com
Suman Swarnkar	suman@icrcc.org
Sonal Trivedi	sonal018@gmail.com
Falguni Vora	falguni@icrcc.org
Pardeep Zirath	pkzirath@yahoo.com

#### Committees

<b>Building:</b>	Kishan Mehrotra (Chair), Shridevi Karikehalli , Jayshri Prasad, Sanjay Sreenivasa Murthy
<b>Bylaws:</b>	Sonal Trivedi (Chair), Anirban Acharya
<b>Cultural:</b>	Falguni Vora (Chair), Poonam Rani, Priyanka Kaul, Shridevi Karikehalli, Pradeep Zirath
<b>Finance:</b>	Sonal Trivedi (Chair), Anirban Acharya, Jayant Datta (external)
<b>Grants:</b>	Shridevi Karikehalli (Chair), Anirban Acharya, Falguni Vora
<b>Membership:</b>	Priyanka Kaul (Chair), Falguni Vora, Poonam Rani, Sanjay Sreenivasa Murthy
<b>Newsletter:</b>	Suman Swarnkar (Chair), Kishan Mehrotra, Jayant Datta (external)
<b>Nominations:</b>	Surabhi Raina (Co-Chair), Vishnu (Co-Chair)
<b>Website:</b>	Falguni Vora (Chair), Poonam Rani

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

Connect with us:

email: mohan@syr.edu

facebook: [www.facebook.com/ICRCC/](http://www.facebook.com/ICRCC/)

Written material can be mailed to:

ICRCC  
1990 Meadowbrook Drive  
Syracuse, NY 13224