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## President's Message

Hope all of you are having a wonderful summer, relaxing and staying safe.

Aa manike Kutchi Nave vareji vadhai. This year KOJAIN introduced a unique way to celebrate Ashadhi Beej - Walkathon. It was heartwarming to see the enthusiasm from the regional directors and local leaders who stepped up and coordinated a successful Walkathon.

Approximately 400+ people came together to walk and celebrate Kutchi New Year. A big thank you to Dimple Dedhia for leading KOJAIN walkathon.



We continue to see increasing high school merit scholarship applications. A BIG Thank You to the scholarship team for their time and efforts. And congratulations to our 2025 winners.

Thankful to Priyank Chheda(NY), Rushil Dedhia (India), Vinit Nagda(NJ) for their insights and engagement with the community through variety of virtual sessions last quarter.

Earlier this year we launched graduate showcase, providing us a way to connect and engage with the future generation in this fast changing world. Thanks to Naman Gala (CA) for helping with the website display.

With the arrival of summer, host family activities for international students have started. Do check out our host family program to help and support the incoming students this year.



## President's Message

The matrimonial initiative has been gaining significant momentum and we are excited to share that the program has seen few success stories this year. One couple got engaged and another one got married. We wish both these couples lifetime of happiness and wonderful memories together. Grateful to matrimonial team for all the coordination and efforts. To enroll into matrimonial program please visit <https://kojain.com/matrimonial/>

The youth retreats across the two coasts were a huge success. Congratulations to our youth leaders for leading, bringing together and energizing everyone to make KOJAIN stronger. We look forward to more such events and engagement with the youth.

Technology enabled BOD members to participate virtually in the KOJAIN meetup at JAINA convention. It was lovely to see both familiar faces and new members at the KOJAIN meetup and engage in the lively conversations, inspiring updates, introductions and medavo. Thanks to Amit Shah (IL) for coordinating this meetup.

Last but not the least, the election committee for next term has been formed. Stay tuned for the election rollout. We look forward to your feedback, suggestions and continued support towards KOJAIN.

Bhavini Gada

President | KOJAIN 2024-25



## KOJAIN Meetup At JAINA

On the afternoon of July 5, during the 2025 Jaina Convention held in Chicago, a special community meeting (<https://photos.app.goo.gl/4S9D9wzCfwXeBTr8A>) was held for the members of KOJAIN (Kachchhi Oswal Jain Association of North America). The meeting was attended by about 175 Kachchhi members from North America.

The main objective of the meeting was to strengthen the ties between the members of the Kachchhi community and celebrate our spirit, culture and achievements. The attendees included past JAINA Ratna Awardee Ram Gada (Bada), former JAINA presidents Dr. Dhiraj Shah (Mandvi), Manoj Dharamsi (Kothara). Bidada Sarvodaya Trust Chairman and former KOJAIN president Vijay Chheda (Kundrodi) and former JAINA president Haresh Shah (Bhujpur) were also present.

Amit Shah (Manjal Reladia), KOJAIN Region 4 Director, played a key role in organizing the event. He coordinated the meeting with the support of BOD members Bhavini Gada, Dimple Dedhia and Narendra Visaria. The meeting began with invocation of Navkar mantra and Jain hymns. Rambhai declared the meeting open by greeting all fellow community members on the occasion of Ashaadhi Beej and praised the spirit of Kachchhi people by reciting a couplet. Dheeraj Shah highlighted the contribution of Kachchhis in JAINA. Vijay Chheda shared updates about Bidada Hospital and encouraged the youth to volunteer at the hospital. Haresh Shah, Ramesh Dedhia, Girish Shah of Samast Mahajan, Hiten Shah and Mitul Khetani encouraged everyone to join the tree plantation project and other projects in Kachchh. Amit Shah introduced the Midwest Kachchhi group's team – Vipul Dedhia, Jayesh Chheda, Jubin Gosar and Harsh Gala.

After these updates, Amitbhai gave a comprehensive update on KOJAIN. He started by shedding light on current membership tiers and statistics. And gave a detailed run down on all KOJAIN programs and activities: The KOJAIN Directory Initiative, Virtual Series, Matrimonial program, Youth Retreat, Merit Scholarship program, Mentor Mentee program, Loan program, Host Family program. Pictures of the very successful KOJAIN Youth Retreat were shared.

## KOJAIN Meetup At JAINA

Recent successes of the Matrimonial program were presented. Following this, the attendees played a fun game on Kachchhi Trivia prepared by Amitbhai. Bhaviniben thanked the seniors of the society for their guidance and encouraged community members to donate their time to KOJAIN's causes.

At the end of the meeting, all attendees introduced themselves, provided their gaam details and described what they do. Community members lauded fellow members' accomplishments. It was a great opportunity to learn about one another, cement existing connections and create new relationships.





## Celebrating Ashadhi Beej Across Borders: KOJAIN Walkathon Unites Cities Worldwide

On the joyous occasion of Ashadhi Beej, the Kutchi New Year, KOJAIN brought the spirit of community and togetherness alive through its first-ever multi-city Walkathon, hosted across 15 amazing locations worldwide.

From the bustling piers of San Francisco Bay Area and Los Angeles, to the parks of Seattle, to the misty streets of Boston, and the neighborhoods of Dallas, Tampa, and Phoenix, the energy was contagious. Communities in Kentucky, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, came together in celebration. Across borders, members in Vancouver (Canada) and London (UK) also joined this global Kutchi celebration.

Each city selected beautiful and refreshing walking routes — along beaches, parks, and lakesides — creating the perfect setting for families to gather and celebrate. Children added a playful touch, riding scooters and bicycles alongside walkers.

Participants created a festive atmosphere by singing Kutchi folk songs, sharing traditional treats like lapshi and penda, and enjoying cool chaas on sunny mornings. Some teams accessorized with Kutchi traditional items.

The Walkathon became even more special with the participation of senior KOJAIN members, including past presidents like Vijay Chedda in the Bay Area and others in various cities. Visiting elders from India were deeply touched by the unity and enthusiasm of the diaspora community. They expressed heartfelt gratitude to KOJAIN for creating such meaningful moments that connect all generations to their Kutchi roots and each other.

Spearheaded by President Bhavini Gada and Secretary Dimple Dedhia, with collaborative support from KOJAIN Regional BODs and local volunteers, this vision of a multi-city celebration turned into a successful reality.

The KOJAIN Ashadhi Beej Walkathon 2025 wasn't just a walk — it was a celebration of our heritage, togetherness, and a shared vision for the future.

Relive these memorable moments: [View the full photo album on Facebook](#)

**Celebrating Ashadhi Beej Across Borders: KOJAIN Walkathon Unites Cities Worldwide**



## Celebrating Ashadhi Beej Across Borders: KOJAIN Walkathon Unites Cities Worldwide



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## 2025 KOJAIN High School Merit Scholarship Winners

KOJAIN Scholarship committee is excited to announce the recipients of the 2025 Merit Scholarship.

Congratulations and best wishes for a bright future from KOJAIN

**Hilonee Dedhia** (daughter of Nipa & Rahul Dedhia, KS) is an incoming first year at the 6-Year B.A./M.D. Program at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of medicine.

After receiving her M.D. in 2031, she is interested in pursuing Cardiology or Immunology and continuing to give back to the community.



**Riya Trivedi** (daughter of Neetu & Snehal Trivedi, CA) will be attending UC Irvine in the fall for chemistry and on the pre-med track! She is also in their honors program. She hopes to specialize in biochemistry and work in clinical settings and research as well. She is also super excited to find her local Jain community there and other medical and art clubs.

**Samay Malde** (son of Bhavna and Tikoo Malde, NJ) will be attending The University of Pennsylvania (UPenn) in the fall where he is excited to explore law, finance, and medicine as options for his major.

He hopes to continue debate at UPenn and further his academic achievements.





## Congratulations to the KOJAIN Class of 2025 – A Celebration of Excellence!

KOJAIN extends heartfelt congratulations to all the incredible graduates featured in our **Class of 2025 Graduate Showcase**! Your hard work, dedication, and achievements have made your families — and our entire community — immensely proud.

Whether graduating from high school, college, or completing a postgraduate degree, each milestone represents dedication, growth, and a future full of promise.

To honor these incredible achievements, KOJAIN has launched a special **Graduate Showcase** highlighting the academic accomplishments of students within our community. You can view the growing list of proud graduates and celebrate these amazing accomplishments:

 [View the KOJAIN Class of 2025 Graduates](#)

We're inspired by each and every story shared — and if you haven't submitted your graduate's information yet, there's still time to be part of this wonderful tradition!

 [Submit a Graduate](#)

Let's continue to uplift and celebrate the Class of 2025 as they embark on exciting new chapters in their lives.

## KOJAIN Matrimonial update

Hello Matrimonial team,

Chirag and I are writing to share some wonderful news and wanted to share our heartfelt gratitude.

Love often finds us when we least expect it—and sometimes, it begins with a simple message in a community group.

We are Chirag Chheda (Bhujpur) and Kinnari Satra (Lakadiya), both originally from Mumbai but now living in different corners of the U.S.—Chirag in Seattle, Washington and Kinnari in San Jose, California. Our story began in a place close to our roots: the KOJAIN Matrimonial. We had both expressed interest in finding a life partner through the group's arranged marriage initiative. What started as polite introductions soon blossomed into daily conversations.

As we got to know each other, chats turned into heartfelt discussions, laughter filled our calls, and we began sharing not just stories, but dreams, values, and life goals. When we finally met in person, we felt an undeniable connection—it was as if we'd known each other forever. It became clear that we complemented one another perfectly.

Last month, we tied the knot and embarked on this new chapter as husband and wife. We feel incredibly happy and blessed to have found love in such a meaningful and organic way.

We're also deeply grateful to the **KOJAIN matrimonial group** for creating the space that brought us together. In a world that moves fast, sometimes all it takes is the right platform and a bit of faith for two people to find their forever.

— Chirag & Kinnari





## KOJAIN Host Family program

We are approaching that time of the year again; we will have new batch of Kutchi students arriving in North America starting August.

As you know KOJAIN Host Family Program volunteers are ready to help settle these kids by connecting with local host families.

How to get connected with KOJAIN host family program:

- **Students:** If you are parent or the student who is coming to US we request you to get connected with KOJAIN host family program via sending an email at [hostfamily@kojain.com](mailto:hostfamily@kojain.com) with details of which city/state you are coming and also the name of the University.

- **Become a host family:** If you live in North America and are willing to help the incoming students then we request you to also send email [hostfamily@kojain.com](mailto:hostfamily@kojain.com) with your contact details.

With the changing times the needs of the students have changed and host family support has evolved to be more of a guidance and support during any emergency situations.

## Upcoming Regional Events

A list of upcoming regional events

**Jul 19:** NJ/NY Summer Picnic - Colonial Park

**Jul 19-20:** San Francisco Bay Area Sports League - Sierramont Middle School

**July 26:** Seattle Summer Picnic - Idlywood Park

**Jul 27:** Midwest Kachchhi Group Picnic - Busse Forest South - Grove #18

**Aug 17:** Seattle Sports Day - Grass Lawn Park

## Kutchi Youth Retreats 2025: Bridging Generations and Building Stronger Connections

From May 29th to June 1st 2025, the east coast Kutchi Youth of America hosted an unforgettable retreat in Millerstown, Pennsylvania, bringing together 45 youth members of our community. Set in a spacious mansion and surrounded by nature, the retreat was designed to strengthen our shared roots, foster lifelong friendships, and celebrate our culture.

A major highlight of the retreat was our first ever in-person speaker session with Shardule Shah. A successful CEO of Lime Therapeutics, former YJA co-chair, BS, MS, MBA, PhD, and a Kutchi through marriage, Shardule brought with him both professional insight and warmth and relatability. He spoke about the key takeaways that have shaped his life and career, offering thoughtful advice on leadership, entrepreneurship, and staying grounded. More than just a speaker, he became part of the weekend—playing basketball, chatting one-on-one, and engaging with attendees as a peer and mentor.

The weekend was filled with creativity, conversation, and community spirit. Attendees took part in skits that explored themes from the elements to Kutchi art, building clay Bhungas, Kutchi language activities, fast-paced scavenger hunt, a friendly baking competition, and in-depth Jain philosophical discussions, led by the insightful Anish Visaria. One of the most loved parts of the schedule was rec hour, where everyone came together for hikes, snacks, games, and shared laughter. A big thanks to Arnav Dedhia, Veer Shah, and Samay Malde who were programming subcommittee members that were on-site to help run many sessions.



## KYA: East Coast Retreat

The attendees were divided into four teams based on the elements: fire, air, water, and earth. These teams competed in friendly games and challenges each evening, encouraging teamwork and competition. Throughout the day, the group was reorganized into smaller clusters for various activities, allowing everyone the opportunity to bond with new people.

No retreat would be complete without great food. Meals included a variety of crowd-pleasers like subs, pizza, baked ziti, and Mexican cuisine. Each morning started with a hearty breakfast spread featuring everything from thepla to pancakes. The kids were constantly snacking and fueled up for the full itinerary of each day.

To everyone who attended: thank you for being part of this incredible experience. Seeing our community come together, grow stronger, and create lasting memories is what makes all the planning and effort worthwhile. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did, and we're already looking forward to future events and the next retreat. Do check out some highlights here - [INSTAGRAM REEL HIGHLIGHTS](#)

**With Love,**

**East Coast Kutchi Youth Team**

**Reeya Vora, Riya Gada, Rohan Gala, Mehal Gala, Jessica Vora, Khushi Haria, Neev Maru, Tanay Gada, Janak Shah**



## KYA: West Coast Retreat

On the June 27th weekend, the first-ever West Coast Kutchi Youth Retreat took place in Placerville, California, bringing together a vibrant group of 35 attendees from Irvine, Arizona, Seattle and the SF Bay Area. It was incredible to see young Kutchis gathering on the West Coast to build community and celebrate our shared culture.

We kicked off the retreat on Friday evening with engaging icebreaker activities to help everyone get acquainted, followed by a fun and competitive round of Kutchi-themed Jeopardy that tested everyone's cultural knowledge. The evening concluded with a delicious Indo-Chinese dinner catered by @Harshcaters and a cozy s'mores session.

Saturday was packed with immersive cultural workshops designed to spark creativity and deepen cultural pride. Participants rotated through stations including lippan art, tote bag making, mehendi, and team portraits, learning about traditional Kutchi arts and expressing their own unique styles. After a yummy lunch from @qdooba, everyone enjoyed a relaxing afternoon swimming in the indoor pool and playing group games, building new memories. We ended the night with garba, dj night and an all-nighter with more fun group games like mafia!

One of the highlights of the retreat was a jubilee-style debate session, where participants challenged themselves to answer questions in Kutchi. This activity not only strengthened language skills but also created moments of laughter and connection, inspiring everyone to keep their heritage alive.

Throughout the retreat, the energy and enthusiasm were palpable, as participants shared ideas for strengthening the Kutchi youth community in the future. With a weekend filled with education, cultural appreciation, games, and heartfelt connection, the first West Coast Kutchi Youth Retreat was a true milestone!

We are excited for what's next! Do check out some memories here [INSTAGRAM REEL HIGHLIGHTS](#)

**- Kairavi Shah, Aayush Gala, Ruchi Haria, Pratham Savla, Rashi Haria, Bhavi Kenia, Miloni Dharod.**

KYA: West Coast Retreat





## Region 1: SoCal Annual Picnic 2025

What an amazing potluck picnic we had! The food spread was nothing short of epic — from Jain, vegan, and vegetarian options to colorful salads, fresh fruits, mouthwatering desserts, drinks, and of course... ice cream! We saw old classics with a fresh twist, brand new creative dishes, and some seriously authentic flavors that brought everyone together.

The weather couldn't have been more perfect — sunny with a gentle breeze at 70–75 degrees. Teens kicked things off with flying kites, then turned into the sweetest helpers for the little ones. Meanwhile, a crew got going with cricket, standing kho, and volleyball — the energy was nonstop!

The kids went wild over the giant Minion piñata, and it definitely brought a wave of nostalgia for the teens too. There was lots of medavo (you know what we mean!). We welcomed baby Tulsi, while Siaan and Dali kept us all mesmerized with their adorable smiles and sweet presence.

And who could forget Leo the dog? He was hard to miss — larger than life next to his buddies like Princy, not to mention the ducks, geese, and turtles nearby.

We wrapped up the day with a fun plank challenge and left with full hearts, full bellies, and tons of beautiful memories.

A very special thank you to Malti aunty and Pankaj uncle for securing the perfect spot — especially on such a busy Easter weekend. We're so grateful!

Until next time!

## Region 1: SoCal Annual Picnic 2025



## Region 1: Keya Gosar's accomplishments

Jai Jinendra,

We are thrilled to announce our daughter Keya Gosar's remarkable accomplishments in various academic and scientific competitions.

Keya Gosar (daughter of Hetal & Vishal Gosar, Los Angeles, CA) was honored with a Special Award from the Association for Women Geoscientists at the Los Angeles County Science Fair, recognizing her exceptional contributions in the field of Environmental Science. Her project was about Efficiently restoring degraded soil by natural amendments.



In the United States Academic Pentathlon (USAP), a challenging five-event competition for middle school students, Keya demonstrated extraordinary talent. She secured a Gold Medal in Science and a Bronze Medal in Math.

Advancing to the National level, she continued to excel, earning a Gold Medal in Science and another Silver Medal in Literature.

Furthermore, Keya has consistently achieved academic excellence throughout her middle school career, earning a place on the Honor Roll. This prestigious recognition is awarded to students who maintain all 'A' grades in academic subjects and demonstrate excellent behavior throughout middle school.

## Region 1: Phoenix Kutchi Get-together

Phoenix Kutchi about 40 or so got together for Ashadi Beej at Leena and Shekhar Shah's place. It was fun to meet and do medavo with new and old Kutchi families in the valley. We also celebrated 70th birthday of Kusum Savla and 72nd birthday of Jayanti Savla along with graduating ASU students. Both Jayanti uncle and Kusum aunty help Kutchi students coming from India a lot and have become our adopted parents. It was a potluck dinner and Leena Shah coordinated the event. It was a great turnout and enthusiastic beginning of Kutchi New Year!! 4 ASU Students graduated and they are ready for the next endeavor in their lives.



## Region 2: Picnic Vibes Only: Sun, Fun, and Flavor at Baylands Park

On Saturday, May 3rd, 2025, the KutchValley community in San Francisco Bay Area came together at Baylands Park, Sunnyvale for the much-anticipated Spring Potluck Picnic. With over 375 attendees, including 130+ families from 20 different cities, this year's event was a celebration of food, fun, and community.

### A Flavorful Experience Like Never Before

Again this year's picnic had an exciting variety of food stations, coordinated by location-based groups and packed with home-cooked goodness. From traditional favorites to new flavors—including the trending Dubai viral ice cream and refreshing watermelon—there was something for every craving. The delicious spread was a true community effort, and we thank everyone who contributed.

### Games, Joy, and Lasting Memories

The super-sized venue offered generous shade and seating, and the sunny weather made for the perfect picnic backdrop. Adults and seniors enjoyed lively games and volleyball, while kids had a great time on the play structures. The ever-popular Housie with a twist brought laughter and excitement, and plenty of “Medavo” moments made the day even more special.



## Region 2: Picnic Vibes Only: Sun, Fun, and Flavor at Baylands Park

### Gratitude to Our Volunteers

We're also deeply thankful to everyone who stepped in to help—whether it was setting up, bringing group items, serving ice cream or watermelon, helping with activities, or cleaning up. Your support keeps this community thriving. A big thank you to the dedicated Picnic team: Beleena Veera, Bhanik Shah, Bijal Gala, Isha Shah, Jaikit Savla, and Naman Gala. The Spring Picnic celebrated community, food, and fun, leaving everyone excited for next year.



## Region 2: Sakshi Dedhia's achievement

Heartfelt Congratulations to Sakshi, daughter of Heeral and Anil Khetshi Dedhia, Gaam Gadhsisa, for winning 1st place in Anatomy and Physiology at state level in the Washington Career and Technical Sports Medicine Association (WCTSMA) competition! More than 50 Washington state schools participated in the event.



Sakshi is a senior at Issaquah High School, WA and is planning to study at the University of Washington in fall majoring in Biochemistry. Outside of her studies, Sakshi has been involved in various extracurriculars, including helping freshmen transition to high school through the Link Crew program, acting as Social Media Manager for her Sports Medicine Club, working with the Education and Adoptions departments at the Seattle Humane Pet Shelter, volunteering with Eastside Friends of Seniors, as well as working with the brilliant minds at AoPS Academy. She has also enjoyed working with the highly skilled healthcare workers at Swedish Hospital as a Junior Health Scholar.

## Region 4: Holi & Mother's Day Celebration

On the fine Sunday afternoon of April 27, the Midwest Kutchhi group came together to celebrate the festival of Holi and Mother's Day. The get together kicked off the 2025 event season for the community. We started with snacks and a lot of medavo - after all our members had a lot of catching up to do since Diwali last year.



The program then moved to Open mic. Many members gave a moving tribute to their mothers. We got to hear extraordinary speeches with people reminiscing about the time spent with their mothers and recounting the contributions and influence of their mothers in their lives.

Little kids made Mother's Day cards for their moms and grandmoms. And they all walked in unison to hand over their creations to their moms. Quite a sight to see.

Karaoke segment of the program got everyone singing. We have some great talent in the Chicago area.

After some sumptuous food, the group moved outside to play with Holi colors. Holi celebration filled the event with colors, spirit and joy and brought out playfulness in young and old alike.

Beautiful stories + kids at their creative best + games + great food + Holi = recipe for a memorable and colorful celebration.

## Region 4: Holi & Mother's Day Celebration



## Region 5: Jalsa Picnic

We had a KOJAIN Region 5 - Atlanta "Jalsa Jalsa" annual picnic on Sat - Apr 26, 2025 [2 pm – 6 pm].  
Super amazing - lots of love, respect, sweetness, dance, fun, food, majaa majaa.

We thank Popatbhai Gala for respectful homage to the sad killing of the 26 Pahalgam tourists with one minute silence and thank you to our young 9-year-old Navya [Mittal Haria & Ranjeet Bhosale's talented loving daughter] for leading the 3 Navkar Mahamantra recitation.

Ranjeet and Popatbhai took some lovely pics.

Thank you to Beena Shah for coming to Atlanta all the way from Alabama and also helping us organize fun games.

"East or west - KOJAIN 5 Jalsa Jalsa group is the best".

We had a wide variety of mouthwatering food that was enjoyed by all - Dry Bhel, Chutney sandwich, Pizzas including Jain cheeseless Paneer Pizzas, Biscuits - cookies, Tea, Coffee, cold drinks, etc.

Everyone had a wonderful time, and we were all also glad to see many new faces including many parents visiting from Bharat. Thanks to lots of entertaining fun activities, music, dance, and games.

It was lovely witnessing all the kind-hearted people going the extra mile & helping hands everywhere.

Karishma Momaya, Bhaven Malde, Jay Gala, Trupti Shah (Visaria) and Narendra Shah (Visaria) and many others helped organize this incredible and unforgettable annual picnic.



## Region 5: Jalsa Picnic

