



KOJAIN NEWSLETTER

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President's Message

My dear fellow Kachchhi Oswals,

Jai Jinendra.

This is our first newsletter of this year. Welcome to 2005. Wish you and your family a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

The earthquake in Kachchh during 2001 was of magnitude of 7.6. The earthquake in 2004 (Tsunami) is of magnitude 8.9. The earthquake strength of one magnitude increases by geometric progression. The Tsunami earthquake is much stronger than Kachchh earthquake. Anyone wishing to donate funds can send check to KOJAIN, with memo stating Tsunami earthquake. Shri Dami Rambhia will be coordinating the information related to Tsunami earthquake.

Many of us visited India during the winter months, especially at the end of the year. An NRI party was arranged at Lax Kenia's house in Mumbai where the NRIs of North America and NRIs settled in India got together on December 31st 2004. About 70 members joined the party. Many of us had a chance to meet old friends and make new friends.

As is my practice in the years gone by, I again visited the organizations to which KOJAIN sent the donations in the last few years. I attended the opening ceremony of the "Jaya Rehabilitation Institute and Research Center" at Bidada Sarvodaya Trust in Bidada. In Khavda, KMVS (Kachchh Mahila Vikas Sangathan) has undertaken a project to develop a small Maternity Clinic with KOJAIN's participation. The clinic was inaugurated in February 2005. To have such a facility in so remote a rural area is surely a blessing for women in and around Khavda.. The 200-lakh-Rupees project to rehabilitate members of KVO (Kachchhi Visa Oswals) Samaj of Bhuj who had lost their houses in the earthquake of 2001 was inaugurated in March 2005. Veerayatan schools in Jakhania and Rudrani in Kachchh, two of the most well managed schools, are now fully operational. (<http://www.veerayatan.org/5d01.htm>) Veerayatan has accepted our proposal to award "Shri Tulshi Gajra Memorial Scholarship Program" for and on behalf of KOJAIN.

I found the Prince Health Center and Navneet Hospital in Dahishar, near Mumbai, prime examples of making optimal and efficient use of available resources to provide best possible service to our Kachchhi Oswal community.

Bhujpur Maternity Hospital is scheduled to open in December of 2005. As many of you are aware, the prime force behind the completion of this project were our KOJAIN members, Shri Ramesh Dedhia of Michigan and Shri Chhotalal Bheddah of New York. They also were instrumental in securing donation from AIF (American Indian Foundation).

I also visited Bhachau and Bhojay hospitals. Bhuj Hospital, built by government at a cost of 130-plus crore rupees is, at present, without the needed medical staff and so far has turned out to be a white elephant. However, in general, the progress of developmental work in Kachchh is noticeable.

We love to hear from you. Keep sending your comments.

With warm regards,

Kalyanji Mota
President of KOJAIN

News from The Board of Directors:

The Board of meet via tele conference on October 3, 2004.

- Board of directors made suggestions to revise Scholarship Program. The suggestions may be incorporated in the Program to serve our community better.
- Discussion was held for long term planning of KOJAIN. It was determine that several committees are functioning well to accomplish long term goals.
- Board reviewed functioning of several committees.

Progress report of Medical Information Committee

Chairperson: Vimla Chheda (203) 372-4958
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From: Vimla Chheda. Progress report & appeal letter

Dear Friends,

Medical Information committee was able to assist two patients from India with their ear problems. The advice and encouragement one of the patients (Mulbai Shantilal Furia of Mulund) received from Dr. Chandradan Haria (ENT) greatly helped her.

My humble request to all the Medical Professionals is to please join our committee as volunteers.

KMVS (Kachchh Mahila Vikash Sangathan)**UPDATE**

Many of you may remember the story from the last KOJAIN Newsletter "Hu Paachhi Aaveesh" (I will come back). We, the members of KMVS (Kachchh Mahila Vikas Sangathan) Committee thank you all for your generous and timely support for the women's health clinic in rural Kachchh. We are delighted to announce that the clinic was inaugurated on February 11, 2005. Approximately 80 KOJAIN members generously supported this cause.

The clinic has opened in the center of Khavda village, which has a population of approximately 10,000 people. At present the clinic serves the whole pachchham area, which has a population base of 40,000. This is the only working clinic in the area. This unique clinic for the rural women is run by the trained dhais (mid wives), and nurses. We will provide further update on how the clinic is running in the future newsletters.

KMVS staff is also actively involved in the Tsunami disaster relief efforts. Sushmaben (founder of KMVS) was invited to Tamilnadu to coordinate the relief work with her tremendous experience after the earthquake in Bhuj.

Kachchh Mahila Vikas Sangathan Committee

GENERAL BODY MEETING AND GET-TOGETHER EVENT IS PLANNED DURING JAINA CONVENTION.

We are very happy to announce that JAINA Convention conveners and Program Committee have accepted our request to provide a hall accommodating 200 people for 1.25 hours to have a KOJAIN general body meeting and get-together of KOJAIN members on either Saturday July 2, 2005 or Sunday July 3, 2005. (Please refer to the JAINA program book, to be given at the convention for specifics of day, time and location etc.)

We appeal to all KOJAIN members to plan to attend the JAINA Convention starting Friday July 1, 2005.

Following is the agenda planned for the meeting: 1) Prathana 2) Introduction by all the members present (3) Latest report on activities of some committees (4) Comments from members related to only of KOJAIN activities. (5) Any other item approved by the Board of Directors. (6) Social time, meet each other.

New Membership:

<u>Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>St.</u>	<u>Amt.</u>
Jaya & Navin Shah	Cannan	CT	\$250
Shah Vasant & Damyanti	Omaha	NE	\$250
Shah Mulchand & Hansa	Overland Park	KS	\$250
Sunil & Pallavi Dharamsi	Manassas	VA	\$250
Mukesh & Kalpana Dharod	Lenexa	KS	\$250
Shah Amish & Kavita	Harrisburg	PA	\$ 40
Umesh & Sony Gala	Conyers	GA	\$ 40
Ketna & Rajendra Shah	Englewood	CO	\$ 40
Shah Keyur	San Diego	CA	\$ 30
Bhounik Mamania	New Rochelle	NY	\$ 30
Nikhil Satra	Marlborough	MA	\$ 30

Shri Tulshibhai Gajra Memorial Fund

<u>Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>St.</u>	<u>Amt.</u>
Shah Bankim and Nita	San Diego	CA	\$1000
Savla Popat & Kalpana	Pasadena	CA	\$2368

Shree Mulund Swetamber Murtipujak Jain Sangh

<u>Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>St.</u>	<u>Amt.</u>
Rajiv Maheshwari	Farmington Hills	MI	\$7400

Shree Bidada Sarvoday Trust

<u>Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>St.</u>	<u>Amt.</u>
Shah Arvind and Jaya	Troy	MI	\$75,000

(Pledged total of \$225,000. Three installments of \$75,000 each in 2004, 2005 & 2006)

Kachchh Mahila Vikas Sangthan Committee

<u>Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>St.</u>	<u>Amt.</u>
Smita D. Udeshi	Covina	CA	\$2,000
Hansraj & Usha Maru	Brookfield	CT	\$1,700*
Rajesh & Jyoti Chheda	Atco	NJ	\$1,001
Rasik & Harshada Nagda	Ocala	FL	\$1,000
Arvind & Asha Vira	Gretna	LA	\$1,000
Hemant Maru	Hicksville	NY	\$1,000
Mahendra & Nalini Maru	Owensboro	KY	\$1,000
Anil & Hina Shah	Concord	MA	\$1,000
Lata & Kanti Gala	Manalapan	NJ	\$1,000
Hasmukh & Meena Shah	Houston	TX	\$786
Talkashi & Meeta Shah	Chatham	NJ	\$750
Lalit & Rekha Savla	San Diego	CA	\$501
Bakim & Nita Shah	San Diego	CA	\$501
Samji & Rekha Dedhia	Houston	TX	\$501
Popatlal & Kalpana Savla	Pasadena	CA	\$501
Dinesh & Rajul Gala	Cerritos	CA	\$500
Shanti & Hema Satra	Crete	IL	\$500
Jethalal & Alka Rambhia	Pittsburgh	PA	\$500
Chotalal & Dorothy Bheddah	Port Washington	NY	\$500
Vasant & Jyotsna Nagda	Newton	MA	\$500
Vijay & Mita Sankhla	Toms River	NJ	\$500
Kishore & Ninu Vora	Owensboro	KY	\$500
Lalit & Hema Savla	Holden	MA	\$500
Lalit Gala & Chandrica Shah	North Andover	MA	\$251

<u>Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>St.</u>	<u>Amt.</u>
Sudhir & Anita Shah	Woodbridge	CT	\$251
Niren & Jaya Nagda	Clarksburgh	MD	\$250
Dami & Prabha Rambhia	Glastonbury	CT	\$250
Chandravada & Hansa Haria	Medina	OH	\$250
Vijay & Piyusha Savla	Acton	MA	\$250
Ram & Neena Gada	St. Paul	MN	\$250
Rajendra & Ketna Shah	Englewood	CO	\$200
Bhawanji & Kalavati Jain	Dunn Loring	VA	\$200
Dinesh & Sushila Shah	San Diego	CA	\$151
Harakh & Jayawanti Dedhia	New Orleans	LA	\$151
Seema Maru	Hazlet	NY	\$151
Rajesh & Jainisha Shah	Albuquerque	NM	\$151
Tilak & Ranjana Shah	Rockville	MD	\$151
Naresh Kumar & Marudula Shah	Shavertown	PA	\$151
Priti & Bharat Shah	Edison	NJ	\$102
Umesh & Archana Shah	Burlington	NJ	\$101
Vijay & Pallavi Chheda	Santa Clara	CA	\$101
Dhiren & Sushma Shah	Dallas	TX	\$101
Navin & Vimla Chheda	Easton	CT	\$101
Kirit & Pallavi Gala	Arcadia	CA	\$101
Mahendra & Hina Shah	Altamonte Springs	FL	\$101
Reshma M. Gada	Attleboro	MA	\$101
Nemjee & Jaya Chheda	Rockford	IL	\$101
Tansukh & Manjula Maru	Hazlet	NY	\$101
Navin & Sudha Vora	Houston	TX	\$101
Kalyanji & Jyoti Mota	Anaheim	CA	\$101
Jawahar & Vasanti Visaria	Pensacola	FL	\$101
Visanji & Jaya Gala	Germantown	TN	\$100
Sanjiv & Chhaya Gala	Pearland	TX	\$100
Sanjay N. Mediwala	Houston	TX	\$100
Anil & Pushpa Bharani	Houston	TX	\$100
Narendra & Neelam Gosar	Katy	TX	\$100
Dhirajlal & Indrani Gosar	Houston	TX	\$100
Suresh & Prema Shah	Norwalk	CT	\$100
Pradip & Bhanu Savla	Southington	CT	\$100
Kalpesh & Hemal Savla	Woburn	MA	\$100
Dinesh & Ranjana Chheda	Bedford	MA	\$100
Samir & Amisha Shah	Rockville	MD	\$51
Ratilal & Rekha Chheda	Millersville	MD	\$51
Shashikant & Pallavi Savla	Lewis Center	OH	\$51
Dilip & Aarti Chheda	Houston	TX	\$51
Chand & Indira Shah	Lisle	IL	\$51
Mansukhlal & Manjula Gala	North Haven	CT	\$51
Shashin B. Chheda	Dorchester	MA	\$51
Ameet \$ Heena Kotak	Lisle	IL	\$50
Vasant Shah	Omaha	NE	\$50
Sunil & Pallavi Dharamsi	Manassas	VA	\$25
Navin & Jaya Shah	New Canaan	CT	\$25
Kirtikumar & Sangeeta Jain	Trumbull	CT	\$25
Shekhar & Leena Shah	San Marcos	TX	\$25
Girish & Kinnari Kenia	Oradell	NJ	\$11
Gangji & Prabha Gala	Houston	TX	\$10
Total Amount collected			\$24,191

* In addition, Marus contributed \$803 towards mailing of September 2004 KOJAIN newsletter. We acknowledge their contribution with our thanks.

NEWS FROM REGIONS

Region 10: CT,ME,MA,NH,RI,VT.

A Connecticut (Kachchi) youth performs in Barcelona



Nirav Shah, 15 of Woodbridge, Connecticut participated in the 2004 Parliament of worlds' religions held in Barcelona, Spain from July 7th to July 13th 2004. He performed spiritual music on his violin at

the 'Unity of Minds' program and also at the closing ceremony, along with other youths.

The parliament was attended by nearly 8,000 delegates from 75 countries. The Parliament also extended an invitation and a scholarship to Nirav to participate in the pre-parliament assembly of the leaders held at the Montserrat monastery just outside of Barcelona. Nirav was the youngest member of the assembly. Assembly, gathered together 250 religious and spiritual leaders, scholars, activists and practitioners, grassroots inter-religious organizers, representatives of the world's other guiding institutions, and young people, in order to consider the role and contribution of religion and spirituality to a better world. Our congratulations to Nirav and his proud parents.

Region 4: IL,IN,IA,MN,NE,ND,SD WI Graduation:

- Congratulations to Rajesh Laxmichand Shah (25), Son of Loius & Lilavanti Shah of Chicago (Kutch Nagalpur) for completing Masters in Computer Science (June 2004) from Stanford University, Palo Alto, Ca. and joining as Software Engineer with Motorola in Mountain View, California.

Welcome and Thank-you Notes:

- Welcome to Dr. Tushar Vora & Dr. Purvi Vora to Minneapolis. Tushar has joined as cardiologist with Minnesota Heart Clinic and Purvi is a residence medical Fellow with Univ. Of Minn. Hematology, Oncology and Transplantation Division.
- Thanks to Dr. Surendra and Bharti Shah for joining KOJAIN Host Family Program as a host family in Indiana.
- Many thanks to Dr. Surendra Shah (Indiana) and Drs. Tushar & Purvi Vora (Minnesota) for serving as medical resource for KOJAIN medical information system and resource directory.

Region 7: MD,NC,SC,VA,Wa.DC.

Tapasya

- Following three persons from Washington, DC area did Atthai: (1) Manoj Dharamsi (2) Navin Vora (3) Sonal Navin Vora (youth)

Region 1: AZ,CO,HI,NM,SO.CA,UT.Mexico

New arrivals: Congratulations to proud parents & close family:

- Parag and Nisha Veera of Fountain Valley, California (Village: Deshalpur) are proud parents of a baby girl, Arpitas, born on September 4, 2004.
- Vora Sameer and Sangeeta of San Diego, CA, (Village Vadala) are proud parents of a baby boy, Arnav, born on September 22, 2004.
- Mangat Gagan and Nipa of Irvine, CA, are proud parents of a baby boy, Vihaan, born on October 3, 2004.
- Bella and Amit Kapadia of Tustin, CA, are proud parents of a baby boy, Aakash, born on March 25, 2005.

Paryushana Tap:

- Ashok Savla, Sejal Rode, Vijay Chheda and Nalin Chheda all of them did Atthai during the last Paryushana.
- Niraj Khona age 11 did 2 Upvas, 2 Ekasana, 4 Beyasana.

Region 2: AK,ID,MT,NV,NO.CA,OR,WA, WY.

Matrimonial news:

- Neha Navin Shamji Dedhia (Village: Bidada; San Jose, California) got married to Raoul Rashmi Shah (Baroda; Flint, Michigan) on March 19, 2005. The newly weds will make Centerville, Virginia, as their residence.

New Arrivals: Congratulations to proud parents & close family:

- Parag P./Hetal Shah (Village-Koday; Petaluma, California) were blessed with a baby boy, Kavin, in January, 2005.
- Vijay K./Kalpa Vira (Village-Deshalpur; Santa Clara, California) were blessed with a baby girl, Jainisha, in September 2004.
- Sonia and Manish Gada Adopted a baby girl, Riyana. She is 11-month old. They also have an adopted baby boy, Aneesh and he is now 3-year old.

Region 6: KY,MI,OH,W.PA,WV.

Wedding Anniversary: Congratulations!

25th wedding anniversary of Dr. Jethalal Rambhia and Alka Rambhia was celebrated in Pittsburgh PA. on March 19th 2005. Family Friends and well-wishers from Pittsburgh as well as from all over USA gathered in Pittsburgh to offer their best wishes to them. Dr. Rambhia is a cardiologist and his wife Alka is a Dietician. They have two sons, Arun and Kunal.

Region 10: CT,ME,MA,NH,RI,VT.

Matrimonial news:

- Hema and Lalit Savla of Massachusetts had a privilege of two weddings in the last quarter of 2004. Their son, Ashesh, married Erin Rodet on October 9,2004 and their daughter, Ushma. Married Rolf Neill on December 5, 2004. Congratulations to all and best wishes to the newly-weds.

Region 11: Canada:

Sad Demise:

Shri Maganlal Shah of Toronto Canada, (Kachchh Mandvi) passed away on October 14, 2004. He was born in India in 1917 and, at the age of 3, his family moved to Zanzibar. In 1939, at the age of 22, he married to Diwaliben Shah. They were married for over 60 years and they raised 10 children and have 11 grandchildren. He came to Canada in 1978. He retired from work and enjoyed his retirement by spending his time with family. He participation in the Rotary Club, raising funds for various charities, meeting people from many walks of life, advising those who sought his help. He showed keen interest in matters related to Kachchh. *May his soul rest in peace*

Congratulations.



Kisti Shah

Kisti Shah is recently promoted to Vice President of the SPDM group at JP Morgan in New York. Her main responsibilities include business growth, client contact and structuring fixed income derivatives for large tax-exempt and not-for-profit organizations such as municipalities, school districts, airports and other such entities.

Kisti graduated as Wharton Scholar in 1999 from University of Pennsylvania with major in Finance, Health Care Management and International Marketing and minor in Math and Psychology. Prior to that she graduated *Cum Laude* from Harvard-Westlake School in Studio City, CA. She is the daughter of Ashok & Geeta Shah of Sherman Oaks, CA.

KOJAIN Awards Student Loan

KOJAIN Loan Program Committee is happy to announce the non-interest student loan of **\$3809 to Shri Amit Jethalal Shah**, who is studying for Master in Business Administration at Suffolk University in Boston, Massachusetts. The amount is sent towards the tuition fee for the next semester. The loan is to be repaid in installments after Amit enters into job market, following his graduation.

Shri Amit Shah is from Rayan, Kachchh, and is from Madurai, Tamil Nadu, in India. We congratulate him and wish great success in his study and his job hunt.

So far KOJAIN has awarded interest-free loans - including this one - in the amount of \$14,175 to Kachchhi students. This loan was possible due to the generous donation from **Drs. Nitin and Leena Doshi of Great Neck, New York.**

Winner Of The Logo Contest

Sonali Gandhi's entries in KOJAIN LOGO contest won the first prize of \$100 and the second prize of \$50. Her logos art was scored the highest rating from the panel of three judges (Dr. Manoj Dharamsi, Bella Satra and Ram Gada). Congratulations to Sonali and other participants for their time and participation.

Sonali is a computer graphic designer and lives with her husband Vishal Dedhia of Bombay (Navavas-Kachchh) in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Congratulations.

If you have NOT received a new KOJAIN directory, published in June 2003, it is more than likely that you are currently not enrolled as a KOJAIN Member or have not renewed your membership. All the paid-members should have one. Please enroll as a KOJAIN member or renew your membership to receive your directory.

Scholarship 2005

KOJAIN is soliciting candidates for one or more 2005 Scholarships. Criteria and submission requirements for the Scholarship are listed below.

All Kachchhi Oswal Jain community students from North America are eligible. Applicants must be enrolling in a college first-year by fall 2005. All applicants must:

1. be a current high school senior. Each applicant must submit a full transcript including the 2004-2005 school year. Photocopies are acceptable. If mailed by school, the transcript must still be post-marked by **June 17, 2005**.
2. provide one written recommendation and character reference from a teacher, counselor, friend, or a KOJAIN member (not related to applicant). Recommendation must be submitted with the application package.
3. list and briefly describe awards and/or extracurricular services and activities on a separate page. Please provide enough information so that the selection committee will understand the nature of your activities.
4. provide your email address. We will email you to acknowledge the receipt of your completed application and also to provide the result of the competition. All applicants will be notified by August 19, 2005.
5. submit one typed, double-spaced essay. The essay should be on either one of the following two topics: (a) What is the importance of Kachchhi culture in your daily life or (b) Who has made the most impact in your life and how? The essay must be at least one page and must not exceed two pages.
6. provide results of American College Testing (ACT) or Scholastic Aptitude Testing (SAT), or other entrance examinations scores as applicable.

Please mail all materials and two passport size photographs (except transcript if necessary) in one package, unfolded in a 9" by 12" (or larger) envelope postmarked by June 17, 2005 to Dinesh Chheda, 14 Paris Pl., Parsippany, NJ 07054.

Successful tours of Shri Narendrabhai Nandu in North America.



Narendra Nandu

Last Prayushan celebration at Jain Center Of Southern California (JCSC) was conducted by Shri Narendrabhai Nandu. JCSC is going through its expansion program worth 12 million dollars. Shri Narendrabhai participated in raising over two million dollars during the Prayushan Maha Parv of 2004.

Shri Narendra Nandu is from Kachchh Vandh, currently residing at Vile Parla in Mumbai. Since last eight years he is having Varshi Tap. He is performing various religious rites since 1983. In India he conducts various poojas for various religious organizations. He also organizes celebrations for Anjan Salaka, Pratistha and Diksha. He took the total responsibilities of celebrating Anjan Salaka and Pratishtha of Bauter Jinalay in Kachchh. He manages the end of fasting due to Varshitap of the masses. Last Navanu pilgrimage in 2004 was successfully managed by him. He has organized Prayushan discourse for the last twenty years.

He is spending about 3 to 5 months in various Jain Centers of North America to conduct Pratishtha or Poojan celebrations since 1998. He is a trustee of Bauter Jinalay, Jogeshwari achalgachh Jain sangh, Vandh Jain Sangh, and Jain Sangh of Hyderabad. In one day, he has managed eighteen Abhishek twice in 210 temples at 150 villages of Kachchh.

His accomplishments in various areas speak for themselves. We hope that his work in North America will bring enlightenment to the older as well as the younger generation.

Your feedback

We strive very hard to put the KOJAIN newsletters together. We will appreciate your comments to improve our newsletters: what you like, what you want more of etc.

Thank you.

On A Journey Through The Past By Saleen Shah

After completing my undergraduate studies in 1997, I embarked on a spiritually unrewarding career in finance. After experiencing the underbelly of capitalism on Wall Street for four years, up until September 2001, I decided to change careers from an analyst in the financial world to an EFL (English as a Foreign Language) teacher. I asked myself a simple question: "Are there places where the difference between being well-to-do and poor is to simply know conversational English?" The answer: "Too many." I got my CELTA (Cambridge Language Teaching to Adults) certificate in four weeks. Little did I know it would change my life.

Over the past three years, I have taught English to non-native speakers in different "worlds": Costa Rica, Germany, and recently, in rural Kutch. Every experience has required total dedication, an energetic spirit, and most importantly, simple humanity.

I had been teaching English in the Black Forest in Germany for a few years and when I looked at the map one day I couldn't help but notice the short distance between Frankfurt and Bombay, as opposed to the distance between JFK and Bombay!

Growing up in New Jersey and Bombay, I always wondered what kind of place Kutch was. A place where everyone leaves and no one comes back to!? And then when you did talk to the people who left, people from my parents' generation and my Kutchi friends in Bombay, you heard the same old comments: "The rains have stopped." "Water is scarce." "Beta, it is ruined by the earthquake!" "There is nothing to see in Kutch, yaar." Still, I had an inner calling. Even if Kutch was the most god-forsaken and desolate place on the planet, I had to go see the land which my forefathers called home, I had to travel within Kutch, I had to gain a sense of history of Kutch.

I had two main goals. The first was to teach spoken English to a class of society that needed it badly but had no chance of getting the opportunity. So in September 2004, I left Germany and decided to spend the next six months in Kutch. I volunteered for the Indian non-governmental organization called Kutch Nav Nirman Abhiyan.

I taught conversational English to the NGO workers each morning. In the afternoon, I traveled to Bhujodi, a Harijan village. This is home to one of the most artistically-gifted weaver groups in India. I taught the "younger generation" of weavers. A group of artisans come to the classes from a nearby Khatri Muslim village called Ajarakhpur. These are the famous Ajrakh block printers. I taught spoken English to these absolute beginners so that they could communicate directly with buyers from Europe and the United States. Moreover, speaking in English allows them to compete on a common playing field in a "globalized" world and not get manipulated by unscrupulous middlemen.

In the global free market economy – in which Coca Cola Inc. can come into a village in India, buy out the local water supply and sell it back to the village, or in which multinational pharmaceutical companies can patent ancient ayurvedic medicines that have been used by locals tribes for millennia – criminal activity in the name of "free trade" is rampant. For global giants like IKEA (which has set up four competing offices in India just to squeeze the lowest possible price out of sellers), the very concept of fair trade is anathema to them. Therefore, on the one hand, teaching English to NGO lawyers is rewarding because they can fight these multinationals in court. On the other hand, teaching artisans how to cope with globalization (largely forced onto them) makes me believe in the ability of social work to improve the lives of simple people – a society's outcasts – living in appallingly poor conditions.

My second goal in Kutch was to explore this undiscovered world. I traveled extensively across Kutch, from historic port cities like Lakhpat and Mandvi to Kala Dungar, Dhinodhar, and Narayan Sarovar, one of the five holy rivers of Hinduism. When you volunteer in Kutch, you can discover so many hidden gems. For example, I had no idea Kutch had its own currency up until Indian independence. And when the Mughal Emperor Jehangir tried to exact tribute from Kutch (like he did from the Gujarat sultanate), there was significant opposition! The Maharao (ruler) of Kutch said to Jehangir that if Muslims are allowed safe passage from Kutch to Mecca, then Kutch should be exempted from paying tribute to Delhi. To this bold declaration from Kutch, Jehangir acquiesced! This unique historical fact truly depicts the proud, independent and daring nature of Kutchi people, something I truly admire about my heritage.

I thought I would feel a sense of giving when I started my work in Kutch. However, I have gained so much more than I could have imagined from my time over there.

If you have the slightest desire to spend some time in Kutch, don't hesitate. If you have any questions contact me at saleens@gmail.com and research the organizations listed here.

Saleen Shah is an EFL teacher from New York City. His father, Talaxi, is a psychiatrist and his mother, Meeta, is a Montessori school teacher. They reside in Chatham, New Jersey. His sister Pia works for a non-profit media arts organization in San Francisco.

Kachchh Nav Nirman Abhiyan (Abhiyan) is a network of 28 NGOs spread across Kachchh. As the foremost organization in post-earthquake Kachchh, it has become a coordinating point between NGOs as well as a forum for advocacy and policy recommendations to the state and federal governments. It has been involved predominantly in disaster management in Kachchh, which has seen two cyclones, three droughts, and an earthquake in the last five years. Today, its main function is to reduce problems that affect a region which faces continuous droughts, severely low health standards and lack of access to health and primary education. Please visit www.kutchabhiyan.net for more information.

Kachchh Mahila Vikas Sangathan (KMVS) is a collective of women from over 150 villages in the Kachchh district of Gujarat. For more information on what you can do, please email Utkantha Dholakia at u.d@rediffmail.com

Khamir - Craft Resource Center in Bhuj maintains and enhances the crafts of Kachchhi people especially women, and helps empower them so that their craft tradition is preserved and enriched, and their crafts contribute to their livelihood and income. For more information, please email crc@kutchabhiyan.net

Embassy CES is an institute for EFL teacher training. For more information, visit www.studygroup.com/embassyces/teachers/programmes/celta.asp

KACHCHHI YOUTH ASSOCIATION (KYA)

Board of Youth Directors:

Officers:

President:

Region 8: DE,E.PA,NJ.

Sachin Visharia (732) 985-4716
svsaria@lucent.com

Vice-President:

Region 11: Canada

Paulomi Gudka (416) 299-3627
Paulomi99@yahoo.com

Secretary:

Region 3: AR,KS,LA,MO,OK,TX.

Shekhar Shah (512) 891-9390
shahshekhar@hotmail.com

Treasurer:

Region 5: AL,FL,GA,MS,TN.

Nepali Shah (901) 757-2625
Nepalis@hotmail.com

Public Relation Chair:

Region 4: IL,IN,IA,MN,NE,ND,SD WI

Bella Satra (708) 672-9375
b-satra@nwu.edu

Technology Chair

Open.

Regional Youth Directors:

Region 1: AZ,CO,HI,NM,SO,CA,UT,Mexico

Ajay Shah (562) 947-7018
ajaycshah@yahoo.com

Region 2: AK,ID,MT,NV,NO,CA,OR,WA,WY.

Rinki Dedhia (408) 777-0438
rddedhia@ucdavis.edu

Region 6: KY,MI,OH,W.PA,WV.

Nisha Dedhia (517) 214-8599
Dedhiani@msu.edu

Region 7: MD,NC,SC,VA,Wa.DC.

Suchita Gala (703) 307-5505
suchita_gala@yahoo.com

Region 9: NY

Neil Chheda (516) 829-3603
neil18@optonline.net

Region 10: CT,ME,MA,NH,RI,VT.

Archana Savla (617) 879-9781
arch1679@aol.com

Past Youth Representative Director:

Chirag Shah (979) 268-9026
chiragshah1@yahoo.com

Advisory Committee:

Chairperson: Kalyanji Mota

Members: Dr. Prem Gada,

Dhiraj Gosar

Dear members of the Kachchhi community,

Jai Jinendra. As the Kojain Youth Board begins the second half of our term, it has become clear that while the Kachchhi youth spirit is alive and well *locally*, we are not quite as linked *nationally*. In order to keep our rich heritage flourishing among youths, our goals and projects are guided by the philosophy of getting interconnected. Your help with this is vital, and we strongly encourage you to pass this information along to your children.

Here are the projects currently on our agenda:

1. The Youth Listserv—the BEST way to connect with other youths (ages 15-30), participate in online discussions and receive info about upcoming events. Parents please forward this link to your children so that they can get on the listserv. This is a key part of getting active in the Kachchhi youth community.

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/KOJAIN_Youths/

2. Online Youth Database—in keeping with the theme of “getting interconnected,” we are creating a database that will include information on an individual’s career, major, university, hobbies, etc. in addition to contact information. So if you or your children had a question about college admissions, a particular major, or you wanted career advice, there are members of the Kachchhi community who want to help you out. This is a great way to network! The database is set to launch in early May and only those who submit information, will have access to the information. To get on this database, you MUST sign up to be on the Youth Listserv.

3. Youth Website—the site is undergoing a re-design and will be accessible from the Kojain website. It will include the Youth Database, message boards, info on upcoming events and several other cool features to get involved and get connected, so stay tuned for that. If you would like to help out with this, please email Rajesh Shethia at rajshethia@hotmail.com.

4. Potential Convention in 2006—the Youth Board is researching the possibility of hosting a Kojain Sammelan in 2006. The project is in the pre-planning stages (nothing definitive yet) but we’re looking for volunteers to offer insight/suggestions and help with the legwork. This is a GREAT way for youths to meet and get to know other Kachchhi’s from across the country!

Committees and Leads

Site Committee-Nisha Jain

Marketing-Bella Satra

Finance Committee-Sachin Visaria, Vinit Shah

Fundraising-Nisha Dedhia

Food Committee-Lakin Haria

Registration Committee-OPEN

Web/Technology- OPEN

Activities Programming-Mittal Chheda

Administration- Paulomi Shah, Suchita Gala, Sachin Visaria

Social Committee- OPEN

There’s a lot to do and we welcome your talents and ideas. For questions/comments or to get involved, send us an email at kojainyouthboard@yahoo.com.

We would also appreciate it if you would take a few minutes and give us some feedback on an online survey. This way we can ensure that the planning of the Convention best suits the Kachchhi community at large. Thank you!

http://www.etaxonline.com/yjp/KOJAIN_ConvSurvey.asp

5. Getting Involved in Kachchh—the best way to maintain our culture here, is to revisit the roots of our culture in India. On the website we shall post upcoming events and philanthropic opportunities for youths to go to Kachchh and get involved directly. **Saleen Shah, one such Kachchhi who is giving back to the community, tells about his rewarding experience in the following narrative. (His story see on page 7)**

As always, thank you for supporting and guiding our efforts. If you have any questions or comments, please email us at kojain-youthboard@yahoo.com

Sincerely,
The Kojain Youth Board

To talk to a specific member of the board, contact:

President: Sachin Visaria, svsaria@lucent.com, Vice-President: Paulomi Gudka, paulomi99@yahoo.com, Communications: Bella Satra, bellasatra@yahoo.com

Change Of Addresses: Update your Directory**California (Northern):**

1. Atul Shah
2061 SW 189th Ave.
Aloha, OR 97006.
Ph: 503-649-3845
2. Purvi Rambhaya
1177 Californis Street # 1214
San Francisco, CA 94108

California (Southern):

3. Parin Kenia
3601 Parkview Lane, Apt. 25B
Irvine, CA. 92612
Ph.: 949-387 5066

Florida:

4. Shah Dhanji & Prabha
1302 Lake Lucrene Way #203
Brandon, FL. 33511

Georgia:

5. Gala Umesh & Sony
2814 Clearwater Terrace
Conyers, GA 30013
6. Shah Pallavi
3671 Roxfields Dr..
Buford, GA. 30518
7. Chhadva Lalit
5201 Brown's Bridge Rd.
Gainsville, GA.30504

Illinois:

8. Hamendra & Hansa Momaya
100 John M. Boor Dr.
Gilberts, IL. 60136
9. Chhadwa Shantilal & Nirmala
16140 Kingsport Road
Orland Park IL. 60467
(708) 403-5610
10. Chheda Parag Deepa
1231 Spaulding Rd.
Bartlett, IL. 60103
(630) 289-6861
11. Chheda Rubin Ami
901 S. Ashland Ave Apt # 517
Chicago, IL. 60607
(312) 933-0054

Illinois (Con'd):

12. Dedhia Sunil & Lakshmi
2350 North Kedzie Ave. # M
Chicago, IL. 60647
(773) 235-5302
13. Dedhia Vipul & Angela
11047 W. 72nd Street
Indian Head Park, IL. 60525
(708) 784-9425
14. Ganger Mayur & Neelam
5900 W. Crain Avenue
Morton Grove, IL. 60053
(847) 581-0448
15. Shah Bhavesh & Dovile
2301 Bicendennial Dr. Apt 7
Crest Hill, IL. 60435
(815) 725-0120
16. Shah Chandrakant
1512 E. Burberry Lane
Schaumburg, IL. 60173
(847) 619-9313
17. Shah Hiren
5451 N.East River Rd. Apt 1407
Chicago, IL. 60656
(773) 209-2457
18. Shah Hitesh & Utika
216 Chesterfield Court, Unit 6B
Schaumburg, IL. 60103
(847) 798-8015
19. Vyas Ashish & Purvi
1805 W. Golf Rd. #113
Mount Prospect, IL. 60056
(847) 758-0319

Kentucky:

20. Nilesh & Nayna Sangoi
3301 Wilson lane
Owensboro Ky 42303
Tel : 270 689 1418

Massachusetts:

21. Siddharth Lodaya'
82 South Maple St, Unit#24
Westfield, MA 01085

Minnesota:

22. Rachana Visaria
1040 6th St SE
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Phone: 612-379 4543

Nebraska:

23. Rawat Shital
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Omaha NE. 68164

New Jersey:

24. Gada Deepak & Deepal
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New Mexico:

25. Shethia Rajesh & Jainisha
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Phone: 281-773-2348

New York:

26. Nirav H. Gala
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Ph.: 585-424-8715

Texas:

27. Puja Gogri & Nirav Shah
632 Quail Lane
Coppell, Texas 75019
28. Rajan and Shweta shah
7821 La Guardia Drive
Plano, TX 75025
29. Sameer Savla
1007 Ashford Lane # 15302,
Arlington TX 76006
30. Shah Dinesh J & Prabha
1530 Balboa Lane
Allen, TX 75002
Phone: 214-547-0535

Wisconsin:

31. Gala Mahendra & Prafulla
1625 34th Ave.
Kenosha, WI 53144
(262) 595-0377
32. Gala/Seck Nisha
2929 Fish Hatcery Rd, Apt 220
Madison, Wi . 53713
(608) 442-8608

We would like to maintain address/phone changes/corrections on our KOJAIN website for those listed in our current KOJAIN directory. We also welcome those whose names/addresses are not listed in the current directory if they wish to have their names/ mailing addresses/phone numbers added on our KOJAIN website. Please notify Dami Rambhia of all such changes/corrections/additions.

From: Dami Rambhia (KOJAIN)
66 Ruff Circle
Glastonbury, CT. 06033-1439