



## **NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS (NFIA)**

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### **Press Release**

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### **Distinguished Guests, Movie Stars to Grace NFIA Fifteenth Biennial Convention November 21-23, 2008 in Seattle WA**

The National Federation of Indian American Associations (NFIA), an umbrella organization of over 200 organizations representing over 2.8 million Americans who trace their roots to India will hold its 15<sup>th</sup> biennial convention on November 21-23 in Seattle WA. The venue for this year's gathering is the Bell Harbor Convention Center in downtown Seattle. Delegates from member associations from all over the United States will converge to this beautiful city for three days to discuss, debate and deliberate contemporary issues facing the community and will attempt to find solutions to address those concerns. They will also be addressed by prominent political leaders from India and the United States as well as Indian Diplomats. Ambassador Ronen Sen will deliver a keynote address and confirmed special guests include veteran actor Tanuja from Bollywood, famous movie director, Madhur Bhandarkar, Samir Ahuja from the Sports Museum in New York, Consul General Sushmita Thomas (San Francisco), Shalini Govil-Pai of Google Dinesh Kesker, Senior V.P Boeing, and Shenaz Hussain, herbal cosmetologist.

Anjali Sachdev, the convener and Regional Vice President of NFIA, Pacific North, says this is going to be "not to miss event." She adds, "We are fortunate to have this unique opportunity in Evergreen City to host the NFIA convention for the first time." Sachdev explained that two special projects are being planned in conjunction with the convention: exploring a sister city relationship between cities in the State of Washington and India. With the support of Ambassador Ronen Sen and Subash Razdan, Chairman Gandhi Foundation of USA, we will be dedicating a Memorial Peace Park with a life size Statue of Mahatma Gandhi."

Confirmation of their attendance is still being awaited from guests such as Mira Nair, Indra Nooyi, Sunita Williams, Sania Nikore, Raj Guru, Lata Krishnan.

A Bollywood style entertainment program is also being planned for two nights with special features form Mira Nair and Madhur Bhandarkar films

Established in 1980, the NFIA aims to unify the diverse Indian American community and attempts to

protect its basic civil rights and preserve the vast cultural heritage of India. It voices the concern of the community at the local, State and national levels of the government. Its efforts are directed at maintaining and improving the cordial relations between the United States and India. The convention provides the Indian American Community a platform for exchanging ideas with the prominent elected leaders.

“Anjali Sachdev, the convener has assured me that we are going have the best organized convention the NFIA has ever seen,” said Chandu K. Patel who is the President-elect of NFIA. “We have invited prominent leaders from India as well as political leaders from the United States to interact with the NFIA delegates.”

The convention will be inaugurated on Friday November 21 at 9:30 A.M. The inauguration will be followed by a series of Seminars on contemporary issues facing the community on both Friday and Saturday. A business Expo will be held in conjunction with the convention. Also planned is an Indian American Leadership Summit to which prominent leaders of the community are being invited. The purpose of this summit is to explore all possible avenues to work together, with collaboration among National organizations, in order to improve the quality of life for all Americans of Indian origin.

A gala banquet will be held on Saturday evening, at which the outstanding accomplishments of individuals will be recognized and honored. An Award Committee headed by Niraj Baxi is currently seeking nominations for these honors in various areas of endeavors.

“On Sunday, an NFIA business meeting will be conducted at which the activities of the organization will be reviewed and new officers elected,” said Pramod Kamdar, the NFIA Executive Vice President.

All persons, businesses, and organizations with interest in India and the Indian American community are most welcome to attend the 3 day convention, said the chair of the convention committee, Sudip Gorakshakar.

“The best part of attending an NFIA convention,” observed Rajen Anand, the current chairman of the umbrella organization, “is that one gets an opportunity to meet people originating from all regions of India, belonging to all religions, practicing different professions, and professing different political views. No other gathering of Indian Americans provides this unique opportunity.” He added that people coming to this gathering will be able to exchange their business cards, formulate new business deals and will leave with a lot of new friends.

Readers may get further information regarding the NFIA convention on [www.nfiaseattle.net](http://www.nfiaseattle.net) by contacting Media Relation Chair, Rashmee Sharma at [rashmee@rashmee.com](mailto:rashmee@rashmee.com), or call Anjali Sachdev at (425) 818-5152.