



Padma Shri award winner is felicitated

Mohammed Jaffer/Snaps India

BY A STAFF WRITER

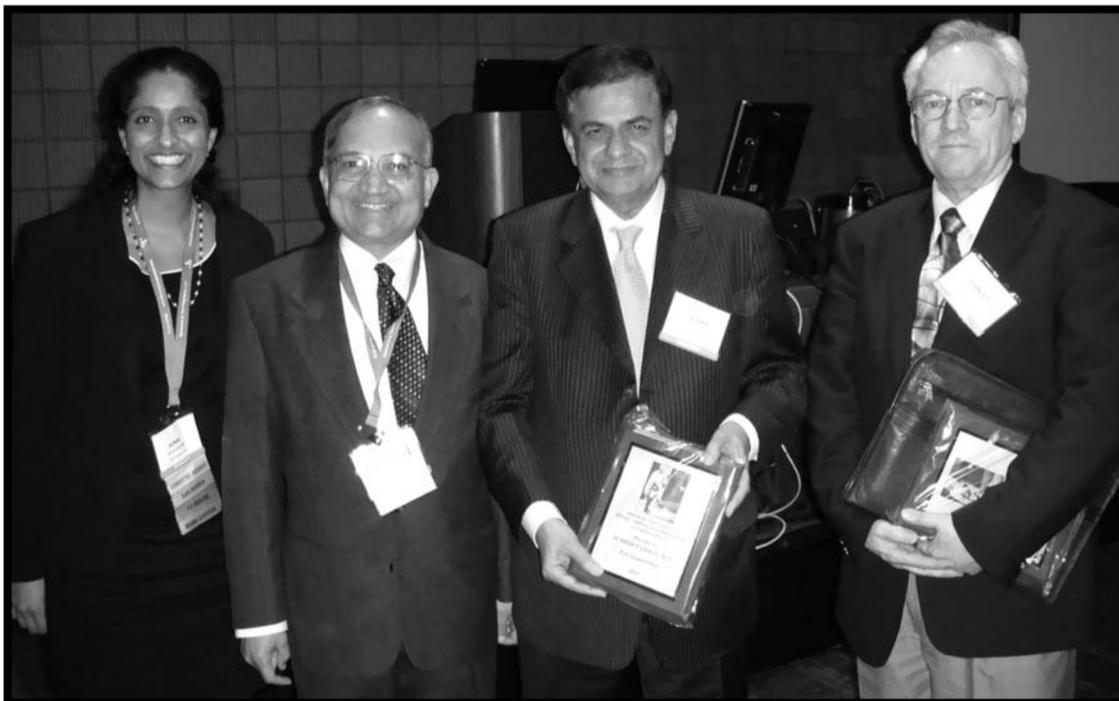
Dr. Sudhir Parikh, publisher of Desi Talk and recipient of one of India's highest civilian awards for his philanthropic work and commitment to improving U.S.-India relations, was feted by a number of community groups and professional organizations in the tri-state area.

He will be given the Padma Shri by India's President Pratibha Patil at a formal ceremony April 4 in New Delhi.

Dr. Parikh, a noted allergist and an authority in the field of allergy, asthma and immunology, is also the chairman and publisher of New York-based Parikh Worldwide Media, Inc., which publishes three periodicals – "News India Times," "Desi Talk" and "The Indian American."

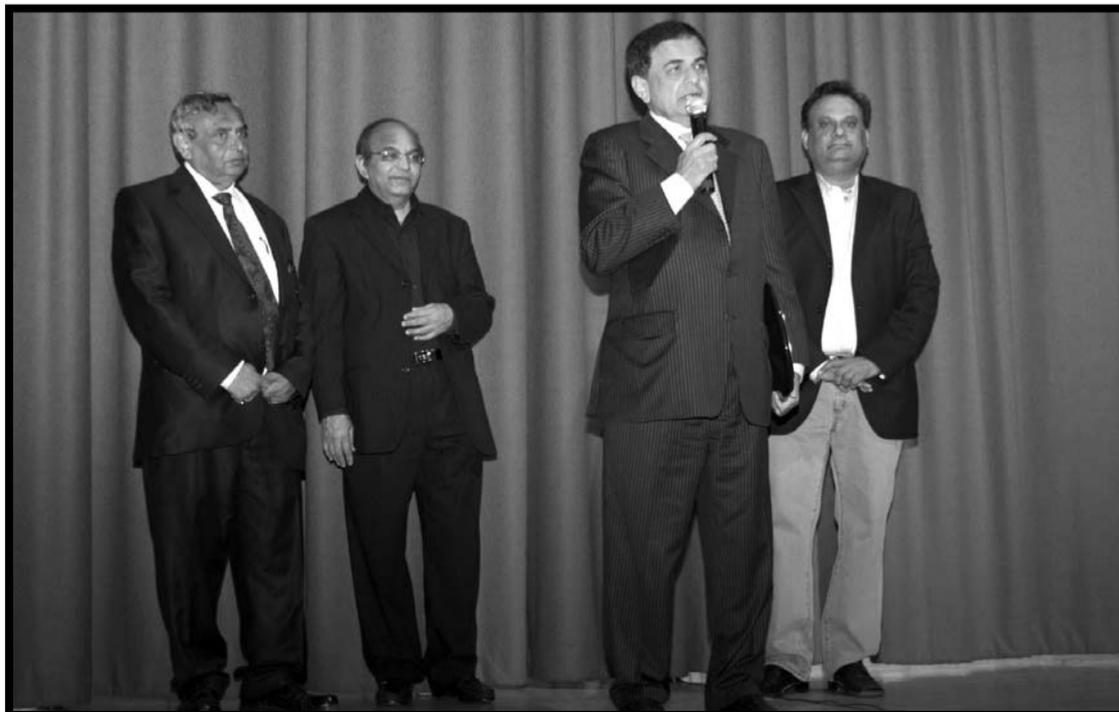
With the Padma Shri award which was announced Jan. 25, on the eve of India's Republic Day, Dr. Parikh joined the ranks of most honored Indian Americans and the only one to receive all three much coveted awards: the Ellis Island Award, the highest honor conferred on U.S. immigrants for their lifetime of community service; the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman, a special award given by the Government of India to select non-resident Indians for their individual accomplishments and contributions to India, and; the Padma Shri, which is awarded to distinguished Indians and people of Indian origin for their contribution in various spheres of activity including the arts, education, industry, literature, science, sports, social service and public life.

Apart from medical practice and publishing, Dr. Parikh is actively involved in a number of



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Above, on Feb. 26 The American Association of Allergists and Immunologists of Indian Origin recognized Dr. Parikh at its annual meeting in New Orleans, La. From left, Sonal Patel, Ashok Patel, Sudhir Parikh and Stanley Szeffler. Below, The Indo American Cultural Association, Inc. of Edison, NJ, feted Dr. Parikh at its event on March 7, at Plainfield High School, Plainfield, NJ. From left, Natu Patel President of IACA; Dr. Rambhai Patel Chairman; Dr. Parikh and Nitin Vyas President of INT Inc. and Cultural Secretary of IACA.



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The Jackson Heights Merchants Association and Lions Club of New York at their March meeting felicitated Dr. Parikh, 4th from right. Also in the photo are, from left, Mohinder Verma, Sunil Patel, Kanu Chauhan, New York City Councilor Daniel Dromm, center, Deepak Verma and Mahipal Singh. Others in the photo were not identified.

charitable causes in the U.S. and in India. He was recently in New Delhi to attend the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, where he was invited to speak about philanthropy as part of the PBD lecture series.

On March 5, the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI), the Central New Jersey chapter, honored Dr. Parikh, for receiving the Padma Shri award. At the event which was held at Jewel of India restaurant in North Brunswick, NJ, fellow physicians lauded their colleague.

"We are very proud of Dr. Parikh for his wonderful accomplishments", said Dr. Thomas Alapatt, president of Federation of AAPI of Greater NY-NJ, at the event according to a press release from the organization. "He is a down to earth guy who is never affected by honors," said Dr. Ashok Kumar of East Brunswick, a sentiment echoed by Dr. Om Sawhney.

Dr. Satish Anand called Dr. Parikh a "great friend" who was always ready to help fellow doctors and community members. Dr. Bapineedu of Bridgewater said Dr. Parikh was a "God-fearing person who believed in quietly connecting with the super powers of the universe". Dr. Vijay Gupta of Passaic praised him for leading the Indian American community "with dignity and courage".

"He has set an example for everyone of us." Dr. Dipti Patel, president of AAPI-NJ, who conducted the meeting.