



# INDIAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – ORLANDO

## Miss America 2014, Bollywood Dances, Samosas and an Orlando Magic win at India Day 2014.

By Aruna Moidu

Add to this an appearance by the Miss America 2014, Nina Davuluri, and a fantastic event orchestrated in partnership by the Indian American Chamber of Commerce (IACC) and the Orlando Magic, and you have India Day 2014! The Indian American Chamber of Commerce and the Orlando Magic partnered for a second successive year to celebrate India Day. Held on Sunday, Jan 19th, the day and evening combined a range of festivities, culminating in a home game where the Magic hosted the Boston Celtics.

The mandate of the IACC is to develop relationships between the businessmen of the Indian American community and corporations and businesses of Central Florida, to enable networking to facilitate opportunities for those wishing to start businesses with India, to foster old relationships and build new ones. Their platform also includes the desire to share with their community the rich and varied hues of India, to display the vibrant culture, food and dress of their heritage. To that end, a whole roster of entertainment was arranged through the day, culminating with the game between the Celtics and the Magic.



Nina Davuluri, Miss America 2014

The day commenced with a news conference with the guest of honor, Miss America 2014, Nina Davuluri. Personable and charming she engaged her audience with her own personal story. Her platform 'celebrate diversity by cultural competency' was especially meaningful, and her message to her fans was 'be true to yourself'. On a less serious note

she confessed, that while she loved the sari, having grown up in America, she found Western attire more comfortable.

A superb lunch, catered by Aroma and Mingos was hosted at the Sheraton Downtown. The American and Indian National Anthems were sung to resounding applause and Dr Beena Parikh gave the introductory speech, followed by Mr Tino Patel who spoke about the inception of the organization and its long term goals and ambitions. Thanking his Executive committee, the Leadership Committee, Volunteers, the Sponsors, amongst others, acknowledged members of other Chambers attending. He then relinquished the microphone to our own Ms Ericka Dunlap of Orlando, Miss America 2004, to introduce Ms Nina Davuluri, Miss America 2014, to her fans. 'Nina is a lovely young lady and I am proud of her accomplishments'.

From 4pm to 6pm Amway Center was rocking!!! A Street Festival was underway and Orlando responded. Strains of Bollywood music set many feet a-tapping, while the scent of Indian food wafted through the air. Indian clothes were on display and the lady applying the henna was doing brisk marketing. Dance performances riveted the eyes, and the Flash Mob of fifty engaged and enthralled.



2014 IACC India Day event sponsors.

While the Game was underway, a VIP Reception was held at the Amway Center. Elected officials of Central Florida, including Orange County Commissioner, Ted Edwards, Sheriff Demings, Orange County Property Appraiser, Mr Rick Singh, Seminole County Commissioner Lee Constantine and State Representatives Bryan Nelson, Victor Torres and Ricardo Rangel and Magic's Linda Gonzales mingled with business and social leaders and IACC. Meanwhile, during half time, C-Studios and the Magic cheerleaders performed some exuberant Bollywood dances to whistles and cries of appreciation.

dedicated volunteers. The IACC hopes to keep its warm relationship with the Orlando Magic and the other sponsors who made this event possible.

As the Magic ended the night with a win, it seemed apropos to hold up the placards which read 'JAI HO MAGIC' and 'INDIA IS MAGIC.'

**Contact IACC:**  
Website: [www.iaccOrlando.com](http://www.iaccOrlando.com)  
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The IACC contributed over 1400 tickets to various non-profit organizations.

The tremendous success of the event must be shared by the management team of India Day 2014, Mr Tino Patel (President), Dr. Amish Parikh, Dr Varesch Patel, Mr Jay Shah, Mr Yog Melwani, Dr. Beena Parikh and Sanjay Srinivasan, The Leadership Committee Chairs Neal Patel, Retu Jahan, Sara Kalwar & Prashant Patel and the



Flash Mob with 50 dancers.



IACC president Tino Patel



From left to right -IACC committee - Sanjay Srinivasan, Dr. Varesch Patel, Dr. Beena Parikh, Miss America 2014 Nina Davuluri, President Tino Patel, Jay Shah, Yog Melwani



Leadership committee



Miss America with Komal Patel



Street Fest performers



40 kids singing national anthem

IACC Editors Anjali Sivakumaran & Aruna Moidu



Radhika, Asha Parikh & Miss America Nina Davuluri on Magic Court



Half time performance by C-studios



Orlando Magic vs Boston Celtics

A scene from Street fest

## IACC Calendar of Events 2014

**Feb 27** - - BAH (Business After Hours) at Blood Hound Brewery - 6 to 8pm. 5801 Conroy Rd, Orlando, FL 32835

**Mar 13th** - Speaker Event / Community Interaction Day - Consul General Ajit Kumar - 6 to 9pm (place TBD)

**April 11 - 13** Business Expo with Hispanic Chamber @ Orange County Convention Center - Best deal for IACC Members to have a booth at Indian Pavilion. Email: [info@iaccorlando.com](mailto:info@iaccorlando.com) for info.

**April 13th** Golf Tournament at Metro West Golf Course 7:00 AM. Email: [info@iaccorlando.com](mailto:info@iaccorlando.com) for info.

**Apr 24** - BAH (Business After Hours)

**Jun 26** - BAH (Business After Hours)

**Jul 24** - Speaker Event

**Aug 28** - BAH (Business After Hours)

**Sep 20** - Gala & Awards Banquet

**Oct 2** - Diversity Breakfast

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