

# GLOBAL INDIAN PHYSICIANS IN THE NEWS (JAN - FEB 2026)



**DIGITAL OUTREACH PARTNER**

## EMINENT ONCOLOGIST DR JATIN SHAH NAMED THE SOUTH ASIAN TIMES – PERSON OF THE YEAR 2025

*Dr Jatin Shah, renowned head and neck surgeon and longtime leader at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, was honoured as The South Asian Times “Person of the Year 2025” at a gala function held at Crest Hollow Country Club, Woodbury, New York, on January 9, 2026.*

*The crystal plaque was presented by The South Asian Times Chairman and Publisher Kamlesh Mehta, along with Padma awardees Padma Bhushan Sant Singh Chatwal, Padma Shri Dr Sudhir Parikh, and Padma Shri Dr Dattatreyyudu Nori. The event drew leading members of the Indian-American community and senior medical professionals.*

*Dr Shah, 85, marked 50 years of service at Memorial Sloan Kettering last year, including over two decades as Chief of the Head and Neck Service. In his acceptance remarks, he said the recognition from one’s own community is a rare and deeply meaningful honour, and thanked The South Asian Times for the distinction.*

*A special edition of The South Asian Times featuring Dr Shah as Person of the Year 2025 was unveiled during the programme, carrying an extensive interview and messages from colleagues, peers, trainees, friends, and family. The evening concluded with cultural performances and a formal dinner reception.*

**Source:** The Indian Eye, 14/01/2026

**Link:** <https://theindianeye.com/2026/01/14/eminent-oncologist-dr-jatin-shah-honored-by-the-south-asian-times-as-its-person-of-the-year-2025/>



## DR SUNITA PEREIRA TO RECEIVE 2026 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

*Dr Sunita Pereira, former Neonatal Specialist at Tufts Medical Center and global maternal health advocate, will receive the 2026 Lifetime Achievement Award at the 23rd Annual Woman of the Year Awards Gala organized by INDIA New England News.*

*The award recognises Dr Pereira's extraordinary 30-year career in neonatal medicine, her lifelong commitment to advancing maternal and newborn health, and her leadership in philanthropy and the arts. The gala will be held on March 14, 2026, at the Burlington Marriott Hotel in Massachusetts.*

*Following her retirement from clinical practice last year, Dr Pereira has expanded her focus on community leadership and global health initiatives. She currently serves as a trustee of the Peabody Essex Museum and the American India Foundation (AIF), where she chairs the Maternal and*

*Neonatal Survival Initiative (MANSI), a flagship programme dedicated to improving care for mothers and newborns in marginalized communities across India.*

*Throughout her career, Dr Pereira has mentored generations of physicians and shaped neonatal care practices that have positively impacted countless families. Accepting the honour, she expressed gratitude and dedicated the recognition to the families she has served and to frontline community health workers who tirelessly support maternal and newborn health in underserved regions.*

*The Lifetime Achievement Award celebrates not only Dr Pereira's distinguished medical legacy but also her continued contributions to philanthropy, cultural leadership, and global health equity.*

**Source:** : Indian New England, 23/01/2026

**Link:** <https://indianewengland.com/dr-sunita-pereira-to-receive-2026-lifetime-achievement-award-for-transforming-lives-advancing-maternal-and-neonatal-health-and-enriching-the-arts/>



## DR CHANDRAKANT SHAH HONOURED WITH ORDER OF CANADA

*Dr Chandrakant Shah, Surendranagar-born public health expert and Canada-based physician, has been conferred the prestigious Order of Canada for his lifelong contributions to public health and healthcare education. The 89-year-old has been appointed as an Officer of the Order of Canada—one of the country’s highest civilian honours—recognising his decades of impact on healthcare systems, policy, and community health, particularly among underserved populations.*

*Dr Shah is widely known for his work with Indigenous communities in Canada, where he played a pivotal role in delivering primary healthcare services and addressing health disparities. He served as Clinical Coordinator at Anishnawbe Health Toronto and worked extensively with marginalised groups including the homeless and economically disadvantaged.*

*Over a distinguished career spanning more than six decades, he has also contributed to public health policy and education, serving in advisory roles with Health Canada and holding academic positions such as Professor Emeritus at the University of Toronto.*

*His contributions extend to medical education through his widely used textbook on public health and preventive medicine, influencing generations of healthcare professionals across Canada.*

*The honour places Dr Shah among a select group of global leaders recognised for shaping healthcare systems and advancing equitable access to care.*

**Source:** : *Medical Dialogues, 06/01/2026*

**Link:** <https://medicaldialogues.in/news/health/doctors/surendranagar-born-public-health-expert-dr-chandrakant-shah-honoured-with-order-of-canada-162061>



## DR HARIPRIYA ARAVIND AND DR R VENKATESH SELECTED FOR CHANG–CRANDALL HUMANITARIAN AWARD 2026

*Dr Haripriya Aravind, Chief of Cataract and Intraocular Lens Services at Aravind Eye Hospital, Chennai, and Dr R Venkatesh, Chief Medical Officer at Aravind Eye Hospital, Puducherry, have been selected for the prestigious Chang-Crandall Humanitarian Award 2026.*

*The award, instituted by the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS) Foundation, recognises exceptional humanitarian contributions in the field of ophthalmology, particularly in combating cataract blindness and improving access to eye care.*

*Both doctors have been honoured for their long-standing service within the Aravind Eye Care System, known globally for its high-volume, affordable, and quality eye care model. The award will be presented at the ASCRS Foundation conference in Washington DC.*

*The \$100,000 award grant will be directed towards supporting Aravind's non-profit initiatives, further strengthening its mission of delivering accessible eye care to underserved populations.*

*Dr Haripriya has contributed significantly to cataract and intraocular lens services, while Dr Venkatesh has played a key role in expanding outreach programs and advancing high-volume surgical practices, including manual small incision cataract surgery (MSICS), along with training the next generation of ophthalmologists. Their recognition highlights India's continued leadership in delivering scalable, compassionate, and impact-driven eye care globally.*

**Source:** : Times of India, 12/02/2026

**Link:**<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/puducherry/two-puducherry-doctors-selected-for-chang-crandall-humanitarian-award-for-2026/articleshow/128218048.cms>



**DR CHANDRAKANT LAHARIYA WINS WILEY RESEARCH HEROES PRIZE 2025**

*Dr Chandrakant Lahariya, health policy researcher, former WHO staff member, and medical practitioner, has been awarded the Wiley Research Heroes Prize 2025 in the “Impact Beyond Academia” category.*

*He is the first and only Indian to receive this prestigious global recognition, selected from over 2,000 nominations. The award honours researchers whose work is inclusive, innovative, and creates measurable impact beyond academic institutions.*

*Dr Lahariya was recognised among five global researchers for his outstanding contributions to policy-oriented research. His work has significantly influenced public health strategies, particularly in vaccination programmes, conditional cash transfers for maternal and child health, and strengthening primary healthcare systems.*

*The honour highlights his sustained commitment to translating research into real-world policy impact and advancing evidence-based public health interventions.*

**Source:** *The Hindu, 22/01/2026*

**Link:** <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/indian-doctor-wins-wiley-research-heroes-prize/article70533663.ece>



## INDIAN DOCTOR DR NETHA HUSSAIN FEATURED IN WIKIPEDIA'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

*Dr Netha Hussain, Kerala-born physician and radiology specialist based in Sweden, has been featured in Wikipedia's global 25th anniversary celebrations as one of eight volunteer contributors highlighted by the Wikimedia Foundation.*

*A medical graduate of Calicut Medical College, Dr Hussain began editing Wikipedia in 2010 as a first-year student. She later completed a PhD in clinical neuroscience from the University of Gothenburg and went on to specialise in radiology.*

*As part of the "Wikipedia 25" campaign marking the platform's silver jubilee on January 15, 2026, the Wikimedia Foundation released a video docuseries showcasing editors from around the world. Dr Hussain's participation underscores the vital role of volunteer-driven knowledge creation and the continued human contribution to information sharing in the digital age.*

*Her inclusion in the global campaign highlights the impact of Indian-origin professionals in shaping open-access knowledge platforms worldwide.*

**Source:** *Wio News, 16/01/2026*

**Link:** <https://www.wionews.com/world/indian-doctor-in-sweden-stars-in-wikipedia-s-25th-anniversary-celebrations-1768540945327>



**PADMA SHRI PROF DR BKS SANJAY HONOURED WITH PROF TP SHRIVASTAVA ORATION**

*Padma Shri Prof Dr BKS Sanjay, Professor at AIIMS Guwahati and distinguished orthopaedic surgeon, was honoured with the prestigious Prof TP Shrivastava Oration by the Varanasi Orthopaedic Association in recognition of his outstanding contributions to orthopaedics, medical teaching and public health initiatives.*

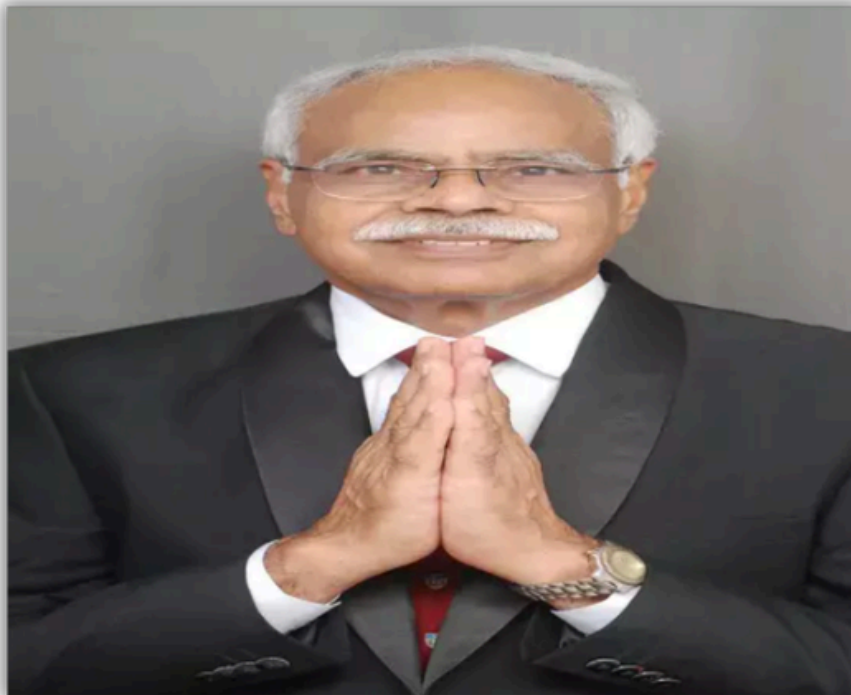
*The oration was presented during a formal ceremony held in Varanasi on January 14, 2026. The association acknowledged not only his clinical excellence but also his sustained dedication to orthopaedic research, education and societal well-being.*

*Prof Dr BKS Sanjay is widely regarded as one of India's most accomplished orthopaedic surgeons, a Padma Shri awardee, and a Guinness World Record holder. Beyond clinical practice, he has played a pivotal role in injury prevention campaigns, road safety awareness, and academic mentorship, inspiring generations of healthcare professionals.*

*The honour recognises his decades-long commitment to advancing orthopaedic care and strengthening medical education in India.*

**Source:** Medical Dialogues, 18/01/2026

**Link:** <https://medicaldialogues.in/news/health/doctors/padma-shri-prof-dr-bks-sanjay-honoured-with-prof-tp-shrivastava-oration-162835>





## 13 DOCTORS HONOURED WITH PADMA AWARDS 2026 FOR EXCELLENCE IN MEDICINE

*Thirteen distinguished doctors were conferred Padma Awards 2026, including two Padma Bhushan and eleven Padma Shri recipients, in recognition of their outstanding contributions to medicine and healthcare across India and abroad.*

### ***Padma Bhushan Awardees in Medicine***

- ***Dr Kallipatti Ramasamy Palaniswamy (Tamil Nadu)*** - Veteran gastroenterologist and medical educator honoured for over five decades of excellence in digestive sciences, academic leadership, and contributions to advanced gastrointestinal care.
- ***Dr Nori Dattatreyyudu (USA)*** - Globally renowned oncologist recognised for pioneering work in radiation oncology, precision cancer therapy, and advancing international standards in cancer treatment and research.

### ***Padma Shri Awardees in Medicine***

- ***Dr. Armida Fernandez***, neonatologist from Maharashtra, was recognised for establishing Asia's first human milk bank and advancing neonatal care.
- ***Dr. Guduru Venkat Rao***, surgical gastroenterologist from Telangana, was honoured for innovations in advanced GI surgery.
- ***Shri H. V. Hande***, physician and public health reformer from Tamil Nadu, was awarded for strengthening primary healthcare and health governance.
- ***Dr. Padma Gurmet***, Sowa-Rigpa expert from Ladakh, was recognised for preserving and institutionalising the traditional Himalayan medical system.
- ***Dr. Punniamurthy Natesan***, Siddha medicine expert from Tamil Nadu, was honoured for integrating traditional and scientific approaches in animal healthcare.
- ***Dr. Suresh Hanagavadi***, haemophilia care advocate from Karnataka, was recognised for lifelong service in patient advocacy and specialised care.
- ***Dr. Vijay Anand Reddy***, oncologist from Telangana, was honoured for leadership in radiation oncology and expanding cancer care access.
- ***Dr. Saroj Mandal***, cardiologist from West Bengal, was awarded for advancing interventional cardiac care.
- ***Dr. Shyam Sundar Agrawal***, professor from Uttar Pradesh, was recognised for landmark contributions to kala-azar treatment.
- ***Shri Kewal Krishan Thakral***, Ayurvedic surgeon from Uttar Pradesh, was honoured for decades of service in Ayurvedic surgery.
- ***Prof. Rajendra Prasad***, pulmonologist from Uttar Pradesh, was awarded for contributions to respiratory medicine and TB control.
- ***Ramchandra Godbole and Sunita Godbole***, healthcare workers from Chhattisgarh, were recognised for grassroots medical service in tribal regions.
- ***Dr. Prateek Sharma***, gastroenterologist based in the United States, was honoured for advances in endoscopy and GI research.

**Source:** Medical Dialogues, 26/01/2026

**Link:** <https://medicaldialogues.in/news/health/doctors/padma-awards-2026-in-medicine-2-conferred-padma-bhushan-13-receive-padma-shri-163371>

## DR JAY BHATTACHARYA APPOINTED ACTING DIRECTOR OF US CDC

*Dr Jay Bhattacharya, Indian-origin physician and economist, has been appointed as the acting Director of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), one of the world's leading public health agencies. Currently serving as Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Dr Bhattacharya will hold both roles simultaneously, taking over leadership of the CDC amid recent transitions within the US health administration.*

*Born in Kolkata, Dr Bhattacharya holds a medical degree along with a PhD in economics and has previously served as a professor at Stanford University's medical school. He rose to prominence during the COVID-19 pandemic for his independent views on public health policies and lockdown strategies.*

*The CDC plays a critical role in monitoring infectious diseases, shaping public health policy, and responding to global health threats. With a vast network of research centres and laboratories, it also addresses non-communicable diseases and environmental health challenges.*

*Dr Bhattacharya's appointment marks a significant moment in global healthcare leadership, highlighting the growing influence of Indian-origin physicians in shaping international public health policy.*

**Source:** DD News, 09/02/2026

**Link:** <https://ddnews.gov.in/en/indian-american-physician-economist-appointed-acting-head-of-centres-for-disease-control/>



## DR UPENDRA KAUL HONOURED WITH LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2026

*Dr Upendra Kaul, eminent cardiologist and clinical researcher, was conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award 2026 by the Indian Society of Clinical Research (ISCR) at its 20th Annual Conference in New Delhi.*

*With over four decades of experience in cardiology, Dr Kaul has authored more than 400 research publications and made significant contributions to patient care and clinical research in India. His work has earned him several prestigious honours, including the Padma Shri, Dr B C Roy Award, and ICMR Shakuntala Amir Chand Award.*

*He is also the founder of the Gauri Kaul Foundation, which promotes healthcare outreach and ethical clinical research initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir.*

*The award recognises his lifelong contribution to advancing cardiology, research excellence, and patient-centric care in India.*

**Source:** The Print, 13/02/2026

**Link:** <https://theprint.in/india/cardiologist-dr-upendra-kaul-conferred-lifetime-achievement-award-by-iscr/2854016/>



## DR S G RAMANAN HONOURED WITH DR K V THIRUVENGADAM AWARD 2026

*Dr S G Ramanan, senior medical oncologist at Apollo Cancer Centre, Chennai, has been conferred the Dr K V Thiruvengadam Health Care Excellence Award 2026 for his contributions to cancer care.*

*The award was presented during a ceremony organised by the Rotary Club of Madras East in association with Kauvery Hospital. He was recognised for his patient-centric approach, leadership in oncology services, and commitment to advancing compassionate cancer treatment.*

*Dr Ramanan is also the Managing Trustee of Cancare Foundation and has extensive experience in treating breast, soft tissue, bone, and hematological cancers. His work spans clinical practice, medical education, and research, with multiple national and international publications.*

*The honour acknowledges his continued efforts in strengthening oncology care and integrating scientific excellence with humane patient treatment.*

**Source:** Medical Dialogues, 15/02/2026

**Link:** <https://medicaldialogues.in/news/health/doctors/renowned-oncologist-dr-s-g-ramanan-conferred-dr-kv-thiruvengadam-health-care-excellence-award-2026-164650>

**DR DIGANT AMTE AND DR ANAGHA AMTE HONOURED WITH DR K V DESIKAN AWARD 2026**

*Dr Digant Amte and Dr Anagha Amte, physicians serving tribal communities in Gadchiroli, Maharashtra, have been conferred the Dr K V Desikan Memorial Award 2026 for their transformative healthcare work. The award was presented during LEPRAs Society’s 37th Foundation Day celebrations in recognition of their sustained efforts in significantly reducing the incidence of cerebral malaria and improving access to healthcare in remote tribal regions.*

*Working at the Lok Biradari Hospital in Hemalkasa, the couple has been instrumental in delivering community-based healthcare since 1973. Their initiatives focus on addressing critical challenges such as lack of access, poor infrastructure, and delayed treatment in underserved areas.*

*To bridge these gaps, they launched a Community Health Programme in 2015, establishing multiple health centres across villages and training local healthcare workers to provide timely and accessible care at the grassroots level.*

*The award highlights their continued commitment to community medicine, preventive healthcare, and improving health outcomes among some of the most vulnerable populations in the country*

**Source:** Indian Express, 24/02/2026

**Link:** <https://indianexpress.com/article/pune/amte-award-work-cerebral-malaria-gadchiroli-10547953/>



## DR SUHAIL ANJUM SETS WORLD RECORD IN CERVICAL SPINE SURGERY

*Dr Suhail Anjum, Hyderabad-based neurosurgeon, has been recognised by the Indian Book of World Records for performing a highly complex cervical spine surgery using a unique and previously unattempted technique.*

*The achievement was officially recorded on February 6, highlighting a significant advancement in high-risk spine surgery. The procedure involved an innovative approach to both surgery and anaesthesia, including the use of unconventional hypobaric techniques to safely manage extreme clinical risks.*

*Dr Anjum, associated with Gleneagles (Glenfield) Malla Reddy Brain and Heart Hospital, successfully operated on a patient over 65 years of age who was suffering from multiple comorbidities, including paralysis caused by a cervical spine tumour.*

*His work has also been documented in an international medical journal, further underlining the global relevance of the technique.*

*The recognition marks a major milestone in neurosurgical innovation, showcasing Dr Anjum's contribution to advancing complex spine surgery and improving outcomes in high-risk cases.*

**Source:** Medical Dialogues, 08/02/2026

**Link:** <https://medicaldialogues.in/news/health/doctors/hyderabad-neurosurgeon-dr-suhail-anjum-sets-world-record-in-cervical-spine-surgery-164162>



## DR AVINASH GUPTA ACHIEVES BOARD CERTIFICATION IN LIFESTYLE MEDICINE

*Dr Avinash C. Gupta, senior cardiologist based in Lakewood, New Jersey, has been board-certified by the American Board of Lifestyle Medicine (ABLM), marking a significant step in advancing preventive and holistic healthcare.*

*The certification recognises his commitment to addressing the root causes of chronic diseases such as cardiovascular conditions, diabetes, and obesity through evidence-based lifestyle interventions including nutrition, physical activity, stress management, and sleep.*

*With over three decades of experience in cardiology, Dr Gupta is already board-certified in Cardiovascular Diseases, Nuclear Cardiology, and Lipidology. He currently serves as Chief of Cardiology at Monmouth Medical Center-Southern Campus and has previously held leadership roles, including President of the Medical Staff.*

*Beyond clinical practice, Dr Gupta has been actively involved in community service and public health initiatives. He serves as Regional Director of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) and has led several Indian community organisations in the United States. Through PRAN-BJANA clinics, he has contributed to over 100 charitable health camps in India, benefiting thousands of underserved patients.*

*Dr Gupta noted that the new certification will further strengthen his approach to patient care, integrating lifestyle medicine principles to promote long-term health, prevention, and overall wellness.*

**Source:** News India Times, 20/01/2026

**Link:** <https://newsindiatimes.com/dr-avinash-gupta-of-lakewood-nj-achieves-board-certification-in-lifestyle-medicine/>



## DR HIMANSHU GUPTA WINS BEST CLINICAL CASE AWARD AT SINGAPORE CONFERENCE

**Dr Himanshu Gupta**, Director of Cardiac Sciences at Neelam Hospital and former Additional Professor of Cardiology at PGIMER Chandigarh, has won the 'Best Clinical Case and Operator Award' at a prestigious Singapore Live conference.

The global conference witnessed participation from over 1,000 submissions across 54 countries, with only one top honour awarded for the most complex clinical case.

Dr Gupta received the recognition for successfully managing a highly challenging left main angioplasty case involving a 45-year-old patient who presented with an acute heart attack following a prior stenting procedure. Using advanced intravascular ultrasound (IVUS) guidance, he and his team employed a ROTABLATOR device to modify the previously implanted stent, followed by a complex bifurcation angioplasty using two stents.

The case was widely appreciated for its technical precision, innovation, and successful outcome in a high-risk scenario, highlighting Dr Gupta's expertise in interventional cardiology.

This international recognition underscores the growing global presence of Indian cardiologists in handling complex cardiac interventions with advanced techniques.

**Source:** Tribune India, 04/02/2026

**Link:** <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/chandigarh/dr-himanshu-gupta-wins-best-clinical-case-and-operator-award-at-singapore-live-conference/>



## DR KASHYAP PATEL HONOURED WITH HIND RATTAN AWARD

*Dr Kashyap Patel, Indian-origin oncologist and Medical Director at BlueCross Blue Shield of South Carolina, has been conferred the prestigious Hind Rattan Award for his outstanding contributions to cancer care and community oncology.*

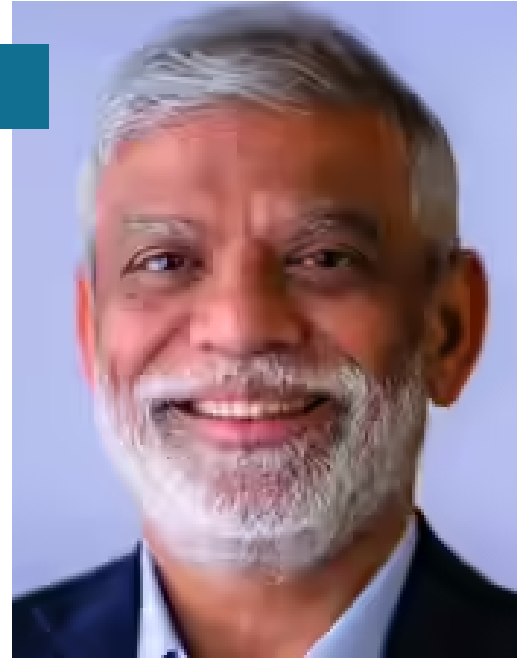
*The award, presented by the NRI Welfare Society of India, recognises non-resident Indians for excellence in their profession and impactful service to society. Dr Patel was honoured for his decades-long work in improving access to quality cancer care, particularly for rural and underserved populations.*

*With over two decades of experience in medical oncology, Dr Patel has championed a community-based approach to cancer treatment, ensuring patients receive advanced care closer to home. His work with Carolina Blood and Cancer Care Associates has helped expand specialised oncology services across South Carolina, reducing disparities in access.*

*A former president of the Community Oncology Alliance, Dr Patel has also played a key role in shaping healthcare policy, advocating for affordable treatment, fair reimbursement systems, and patient-centred care models.*

*Reflecting on the honour, Dr Patel emphasised that true impact lies in service rather than recognition, reaffirming his commitment to equitable cancer care.*

*His recognition highlights the growing global impact of Indian-origin physicians in advancing accessible, patient-focused healthcare systems.*



**Source:** : Times of India, 16/02/2026

**Link:** <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/us/who-is-kashyap-patel-indian-origin-doctor-wins-prestigious-nri-award-hind-rattan-for-transforming-cancer-care/articleshow/128424185.cms>



## GAPIO CONGRATULATES ALL THE ACHIEVERS FOR MAKING INDIA PROUD

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