

The Salute To Israel Parade

In the 58th year of Israel's Independence

On Sunday, June 4, 2006

Dancing elevated our spirits, Smiles opened our hearts,
Songs lifted our voices & Marching together raised us Higher and Higher.



CERTIFICATE OF ENTHUSIASTIC PARTICIPATION AWARDED TO

Indian Jewish Congregations of the USA

in special recognition of their first year

Judy Kauffthal, President

Ruth Kastner, Executive Director

Hilary Yohlin, Creative/Educational Coordinator



Indian Jewish Congregation of USA members at the Israeli Day Parade.

Indian Jewish Congregation takes part in Israeli Day Parade

New York - The Indian Jewish Congregation of USA, participated for the first time in the Israeli Day parade held on June 4 to show it's solidarity with the state of Israel and other Jewish communities all over the world, according to a press release.

The IJC of USA last year collected funds so that it could send two Sifrei Torah to the Beth El Synagogue in Panvel, Mumbai. This synagogue had lost all its six Sifrei Torah in the heavy rains of 2005.

This was greatly appreciated by the community in India. This has given an impetus to do more for the community in India as well as to further increase its activities in the USA itself. Religious services for the High Holy Days Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur have been conducted for the Indian Jewish Community for the past 11 years.

The participation of the Indian Jewish Community in the Israeli Day Parade has helped in increasing the awareness among the American Jewish communities to the fact that there are other Jewish communities across the globe with a common history but with different traditions, all finally leading to a common tie, Judaism and its practices.

The IJC IN New York will aspire to increase its religious and social activities in the USA to ensure continuity of tradition and build a well knit community to keep alive our Indian heritage and our Indian Jewish Heritage.

Sincere thanks to the Indian Consulate, the India Tourism office for their support and Bension Reuben and Nathaniel Benjamin of Top Notch Moving & Storage for the beautifully designed T-shirts for all the participants.

Indian Jewish group joins Israeli Day parade in NYC

A CORRESPONDENT

The Indian Jewish Congregation of USA participated for the first time in the Israeli Day parade held on June 4 in New York City to show its solidarity with the state of Israel and other Jewish communities all over the world.

The parade from 57th Street to the 79th Street on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan celebrated the 58th anniversary of the founding of the state of Israel.

It featured 100,000 costumed marchers representing public and private schools, groups from Jewish organizations and community centers, high school marching bands and floats sponsored by private companies and Jewish organizations.

The IJC of USA was started last year though Indian Jews have been organizing religious events for the last 11 years.

Last year it collected funds to send two *Sifrei Torah* (holy books) to the Beth El Synagogue in Panvel, Mumbai, which lost all its six *Sifrei Torah* in the catastrophic rains of 2005.

The synagogue, which was built in 1849, suffered heavy losses during the monsoon. The ark was destroyed and the Bima suffered some damage. But the building was intact.



■ The Indians Jewish Congregation at the Israeli day Parade in New York

This was a gesture greatly appreciated by the community in India and it gave an impetus to do more for the community in India as well as to further its activities in the United States.

So the community decided to go for the

mainstream joining the parade.

The participation of the Indian Jews in the parade attracted much attention. It gave a chance for other Jewish communities to get awareness about the Jews from India and to the fact that

there are other Jewish communities across the globe with a common history but with different traditions, all finally leading to a common tie, Judaism and its practices.

The IJC will aspire to increase its religious and social activities in the US to ensure continuity of tradition and build a well-knit community to keep alive the Indian heritage and Indian Jewish heritage, the organizers noted.

Since it began observing religious services for the High Holidays since 1995, Indian Jews have been coming to attend the services from LA, Boston, New Jersey, Minnesota and other cities.

The services were conducted in the traditional Indian fashion as was done in Mumbai.

The IJC now plans to set up a permanent place of it's own for conducting religious services. Currently the Village Temple on 12th street in Manhattan is being rented out since 1995.

It was felt that the community should meet at least twice a month in a central place preferably in Manhattan for lectures on Torah, teaching the culture and tradition of the Jews of India to the second and third generation Indian Jews.

News India Times – June 30, 2006

■ Parade

Indian Jewish Congregation at Israeli Day Parade

Manhattan, NY



The Indian Jewish Congregation (IJC) of USA, participated for the first time in the Israeli Day parade held in Manhattan, New York, on June 4 to show it's solidarity with the state of Israel and other Jewish communities all over the world, a press release said. The IJC of USA last year collected funds so that it could send two Sifrei Torah to the Beth El Synagogue in Parvel, Mumbai. This synagogue had lost all its six Sifrei Torah in the heavy rains of 2005.

PHOTO: Indian Jewish Congregation of USA members at the Israeli day parade. **INSET:** Dedication of Sifrei Torah to synagogue in Parvel, Mumba. **PHOTO INSET:** Dedication of Sifrei Torah to synagogue in Parvel, Mumba. (Photo: Courtesy: Indian Jewish Congregation of USA).