

MSU INDIA COUNCIL

MISSION AND PURPOSE

The mission of the MSU India Council is to promote educational and cultural activities related to India. The MSU India Council was established on August 7, 1989 as an endowment at the University. Its objective is to work with the Asian Studies Center within International Studies & Programs at Michigan State University, as well as to:

- Stimulate interest in India and matters related to India among the people of Michigan;
- Promote educational and cultural activities related to India;
- Assist organizations at Michigan State University and elsewhere in promoting activities that are aligned with the mission of the India Council;
- Promote outreach and exchange programs with organizations interested in socio-economic, educational, cultural and artistic aspects of India;
- Undertake activities to grow the India Council Endowment Fund and establish such other funds as may be deemed necessary to promote the mission of the India Council.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to individuals with an interest in furthering the mission and purpose of the MSU India Council subject to approval by the Steering Committee.

STEERING COMMITTEE

The MSU India Council is administered as an MSU-related council through the University's Asian Studies Center. It is led by a Steering Committee, which serves in an advisory capacity to the Director of the Asian Studies Center. The presidents of Indian student organizations at MSU are ex-officio members of the Steering Committee.

CHAIR

Satish Joshi, Professor, College of Agriculture & Natural Resources, MSU

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ved Gossain, Emeritus Swartz Professor and Former Chief Division, College of Medicine, MSU

Sanjay Gupta, Dean Emeritus and Broad Endowed Professor, Eli Broad College of Business, MSU

Mywish Maredia, Professor, College of Agriculture & Natural Resources, MSU

Nidhi Sarda, EVP Head of Deposit Strategy, First National Bank of America

Dhiraj Shah, Former Michigan Insurance Commissioner, Former Executive VP & Chief Operating Officer - Accident Fund Insurance Company, and Former Board Member - Michigan Insurance Hall of Fame

Sitara Thobani, Associate Professor, Residential College in the Arts and Humanities, MSU

THE GLOBAL INDIA AWARDS

The Global India Awards (GIA) were created by the MSU India Council in collaboration with the Asian Studies Center at Michigan State University in 2023 to recognize individuals or groups who have made significant contributions to cross-cultural understanding, global education, and the well-being of Indian people around the world. The selection criteria for the award include:

- Demonstrated commitment and unselfish devotion to the well-being of the people of India and globally.
- Exceptional devotion to quality education for younger generations in India and the world.
- Outstanding achievement in scholarly and creative work that advances global understanding of India.

2026 GLOBAL INDIA AWARDS SELECTION COMMITTEE

The 2026 Global India Awardees were selected by the MSU India Council Steering Committee.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Organized by the MSU Asian Studies Center, sponsored by the MSU India Council, and supported by the MSU International Studies & Programs and MSU ISO, CIUS, and UIISA.



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MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

The Global India Awards 2026



Saturday, April 18, 2026

10:00 AM – 1:30 PM

**MSU International Center
Room 115**

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Asian Studies Center
International Studies & Programs

Sponsored by the MSU India Council

AGENDA

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

12:00 PM - 01:30 PM

OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Satish Joshi

Professor, Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resources Economics and Chair of the India Council, MSU

WELCOMING REMARKS

Dr. Nizar Lajnef

Associate Dean for Research and Strategic Partnerships, International Studies and Programs and Professor and Associate Chair, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, MSU

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS

Dr. Siddharth Chandra

Director, Asian Studies Center and Professor of Economics, James Madison College, MSU

GLOBAL INDIA AWARDS

Introduction by **Dr. Sriram Narayanan**, John H. McConnel Endowed Chair of Business Administration, Department of Supply Chain Management, MSU

Dr. Sanjay Gupta

Dean Emeritus and Eli and Edythe Broad Endowed Professor of Accounting and Information Systems, Broad College of Business, MSU

Introduction by **Dr. Sanjay Gupta**

Priya Balasubramaniam

Vice President of Product Operations, Apple Inc.

INDIA @ MSU FEATURE VIDEOS

- **Dr. Prabhat Barnwal**, Associate Professor of Economics, Department of Economics, MSU
- **Dr. Jon Keune**, Associate Professor of Religion, Social History, and Transregionalism, Department of Religious Studies, MSU

INDIAN AND SOUTH ASIAN LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Presented by: **Dr. Rajiv Ranjan**, Associate Professor of Indian & South Asian Studies, Department of Linguistics, Languages, and Cultures, MSU

- **Bengali: Sanaa Bashar** (2nd Yr UG; Major: Global & International Studies; Minor: Indian & South Asian Studies)
- **Hindi: Grace Mawi** (4th Yr UG; Major: Neuroscience; Minor: Indian & South Asian Studies)
- **Hindi: Sameeksha Sharma** (4th Yr UG; Major: Human Biology; Minor: Indian & South Asian Studies)
- **Urdu: Mohsin Khan** (4th Yr UG; Major: Economics; Minor: Law & Philosophy, International Development)

MSU Education Abroad Program to India “**Documentary Filmmaking in Udaipur: Achaar Vichaar (Pickle Thoughts)**” led by **Dr. Eddie Boucher**, Center for Integrative Studies in Social Science, MSU

CLOSING REMARKS

Alika Sharma (President) and **Anushil Jha** (Vice President), Indian Student Organization (ISO)

Registration
Award Ceremony
Buffet Luncheon

Profile of Awardees

DR. SANJAY GUPTA



Sanjay Gupta is Dean Emeritus and Eli & Edythe Broad Endowed Professor of Accounting & Information Systems in the Broad College of Business at Michigan State University. He served as the college's 11th dean from 2015 to 2022 and currently co-chairs the university's Green and White Council, focused on workforce and economic development.

As dean, Professor Gupta led strategic plans that repositioned the Broad College as a top-tier public business school. He advanced curricular innovation, including reimagining the undergraduate core around digital transformation, global mindset, and ethical leadership, and oversaw the launch of new graduate programs in healthcare management, data science and analytics, financial planning and wealth management, and customer experience management. He also expanded access through university-wide minors and established the Institute for

Business Research and the Center for Ethical and Socially Responsible Leadership. During this period, Broad programs achieved consistent top-20 national rankings among U.S. public institutions.

Professor Gupta was a key leader in MSU's Empower Extraordinary capital campaign, raising nearly \$200 million to support key initiatives, including the Edward J. Minskoff Pavilion, endowed faculty positions, and expanded student scholarships. Prior to his deanship, he held senior leadership roles at MSU and Arizona State University. An award-winning teacher and scholar, his research in tax policy is widely published, and he has consulted for public accounting firms, government agencies, and Fortune 500 companies. He holds a doctorate from Michigan State University and degrees from Bowling Green State University, Calcutta University, and the University of Mumbai.

Beyond his professional work, Professor Gupta is a devoted family man. He and his wife of more than 45 years are proud parents of two accomplished daughters and sons-in-law and grandparents to two beloved grandchildren. He enjoys spending time with family, listening to music, watching sports, and continuing to learn the game of golf.

PRIYA BALASUBRAMANIAM



Priya Balasubramaniam (MBA '01) is a global leader in operations and supply chain management at Apple, where she serves as vice president of product operations. In this role, she oversees the supply chain, manufacturing, and quality assurance of Apple products and core technology components, shaping their accessibility and innovation worldwide.

Growing up in India, Priya's parents instilled in her the profound importance of education and the value of giving back to others. She draws deep inspiration from her Indian heritage, particularly the teachings of the Mahabharata, which guide her to embrace challenges, lead with purpose, and do her duty without expectations.

This foundational belief in giving back is evident in her extensive engagement with the Michigan State community. Motivated by

her own mentorship experiences and her belief that education is a multiplying force, she pledged a transformative gift to establish the Dashney Women's Leadership Accelerator, equipping students with mentoring, coaching, workshops, and experiential leadership opportunities as they enter the workforce.

Priya's longstanding support for her alma mater also includes offering paid work experiences for students during the COVID-19 pandemic through donor-enabled awards and speaking at university events. Through these efforts, she underscores her deep commitment to investing in Spartans and beyond, always striving to open doors and empower the next generation.