



Young Jain Professionals Convention 2025

Program Guide



Schedule of Events

SOMERSET, NJ | NOVEMBER 7-9, 2025

Friday, November 7 – Day 1

- 2:00 PM onwards – Registration
- 5:30 – 7:00 PM – Dinner
- 6:30 – 6:45 PM – Welcome Remarks
- 6:45 – 7:15 PM Luvin Arms Animal Sanctuary Introduction
- 7:15 – 8:00 PM – Keynote: Mr. Sahil Kothari
- 8:00 – 9:00 PM – Recreation Hour
- 9:00 PM – 12:00 AM – Garba: 'Raas on the Line'

Saturday, November 8 – Day 2

- 7:30 – 8:30 AM – Zumba & Morning Meditation
- 7:00 – 9:00 AM – Breakfast
- 9:00 – 10:00 AM – Opening Ceremony and Remarks: Hon. Ambassador Binaya Pradhan, Consul General of India NYC
- 10:00 – 11:00 AM – Keynote: Mr. Chirag Shah
- 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM – Interactive Workshop 1 – Skills for the Modern Professional (choose from 3 breakouts)
 - Breakout 1: 'Unmute Yourself' – Mr. Jason Wisdom
 - Breakout 2: 'Blueprint to Business' – Mr. Prem Jain
 - Breakout 3: 'On & Off the Grid' – Mrs. Ruchika Jain and Ms. Pankti Doshi
- 12:30 – 2:00 PM – Lunch
- 2:00 – 3:00 PM – Interactive Workshop 2: The Collab Café
- 3:00 – 4:00 PM – Keynote: Mrs. Mansi Shah
- 4:00 – 6:30 PM – YJP Shark Tank Pitch Competition
- 6:30 – 7:30 PM – Recreation Hour
- 7:30 – 8:00 PM – Broadway & Bubbles Soirée
- 8:00 – 9:00 PM – Dinner & Murder Mystery
- 9:00 PM – 12:00 AM – Formal: 'Midnight in Manhattan' Gala

Sunday, November 9 – Day 3

- 7:30– 8:30 AM – Zumba & Morning Meditation
- 8:30 – 10:00 AM – Breakfast
- 10:00 – 11:00 AM – Speaker Session: Prof. Jonathan Dickstein—Arihanta Institute
- 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM – Closing Ceremony & Awards



Distinguished Guests



CHIEF GUEST

AMBASSADOR BINAYA S. PRADHAN CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA, NYC

Ambassador Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, a 2002-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, is the Consul General of India in New York. He has served in key diplomatic roles in Moscow, Turkmenistan, Pakistan, and at the Ministry of External Affairs, overseeing India's relations with Afghanistan and Iran.

Previously Chief of Staff to the Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and High Commissioner to Tanzania, he helped elevate India-Tanzania ties to a Strategic Partnership and launch IIT Madras' first overseas campus in Zanzibar.

CHIRAG SHAH

Chirag Shah is a Principal of SRM Equity Partners, LLC, an operationally-focused investment fund in Austin. Prior to joining SRM in 2022, he was a Vice President at The Wicks Group, a private equity fund based in New York. Prior to Wicks, Chirag was an Associate at The Sterling Group, a mid-market industrial private equity fund based in Houston. Chirag began his career as an investment banker in the Technology, Media & Telecom Group at Barclays in New York.

Chirag holds an MBA from Columbia Business School and a Bachelor of Science in Industrial and Labor Relations from Cornell University.



KEYNOTE

Distinguished Guests



KEYNOTE

MANSI H. SHAH

Mansi H. Shah has always lived at the intersection of law, technology, and leadership: first as a software engineer coding missile and satellite systems, later as an Am Law 100 partner trusted by startups and Fortune 500 giants alike. She's built her career on turning complexity into clarity, helping legal teams make confident decisions in a world where technology rarely slows down. Rooted in Jain principles of reflection, discipline, and service, Mansi's leadership emphasizes empathy and intentional growth. A longtime member of the Jain community, she served on the YJA board, later as a two-term trustee, and most recently spoke at the JAINA convention.

Her favorite tradition remains teaching an abridged kids' pratikraman each Samvatsari, a reminder that awareness and compassion are lifelong practices. Author of *The Monsoon Method*, Mansi champions authenticity, momentum, and mentorship in business and beyond. Recognized by Chambers USA and as a Legal Momentum Woman of Achievement, she now combines her award-winning legal acumen and tech-and-business savvy as a consultant, investor, and speaker.

SAHIL KOTHARI

Born and raised in New York, with active roots in India, Sahil led his family's business to become India's leading diamond jewelry exporter. After 15+ years in that world, he's recently been leaning into something a little less shiny yet a little more radiant: how to make life more meaningful—for himself and others.

A meditator and nature lover, he believes business can be a beautiful force for good. He's especially passionate about projects that blend impact with profit—looking for spaces in mental health, wellness, hunger, newer learning modules and simply... more kindness in the world. He seeks to co-create with visionary people who identify with Conscious Capitalism to enhance broader American society.



KEYNOTE

Distinguished Guests



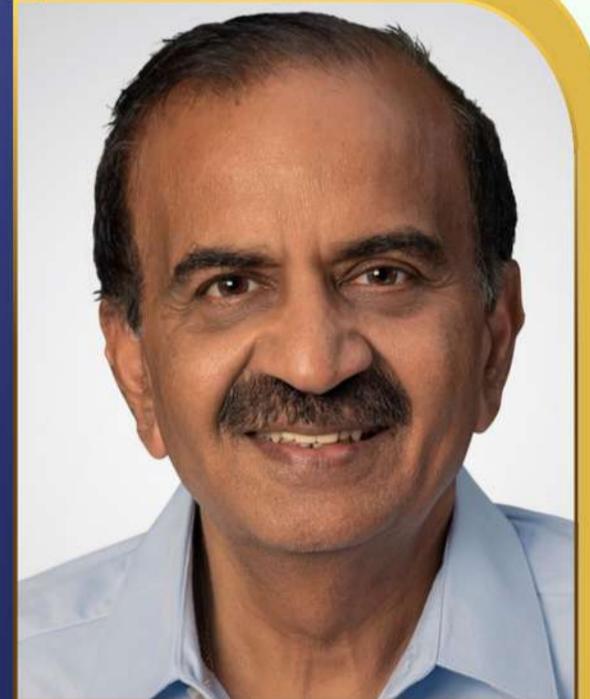
WORKSHOP LEAD

JASON WISDOM

Jason Wisdom has experienced a full career in Information Technology, and is a past President of New York Toastmasters. Jason has launched startups, spoken at major conferences, led teams of up to 100 people, pitched to enterprise buyers, pitched to investors, and been an investor in multiple startups himself. Jason now spends much of his free time mentoring junior and future leaders.

PREM JAIN

Prem Jain is a veteran technology entrepreneur and retired CEO & Co-Founder of Pensando Systems, a cloud and data center startup acquired by AMD. Over his 40-year career, he helped shape the networking industry as part of the legendary Cisco team behind many of the company's breakout products. Before founding Pensando, he was SVP and GM of Cisco's \$2B+ Insieme Business Unit focused on Software Defined Networking. Prem holds a B.E. from BITS Pilani and an M.S. in Electrical and Computer Sciences from UC Davis.



WORKSHOP LEAD

Distinguished Guests



WORKSHOP LEAD

RUCHIKA JAIN

Ruchika Jain is a content creator and strategist at Fireflydo and the founder of Root Media. With six years of experience in digital storytelling and brand collaborations, she has partnered with 300+ brands. She's passionate about social media marketing and helping brands grow through creative, impactful digital content.

PANKTI DOSHI

Pankti Doshi is a certified genetic counselor and creative entrepreneur passionate about science, culture, and community. Trained in biomedical engineering and mathematics, she empowers individuals to understand their genetic health and family history. She co-founded Masala Mixtape and And/Aur to spotlight South Asian talent, and through Pankti Doshi Events has produced acclaimed experiences like The Silk Road, Heeramandi, and Gully Gang. Follow @pankti_doshi for her weekly roundup of South Asian events in NYC.



WORKSHOP LEAD

Distinguished Guests



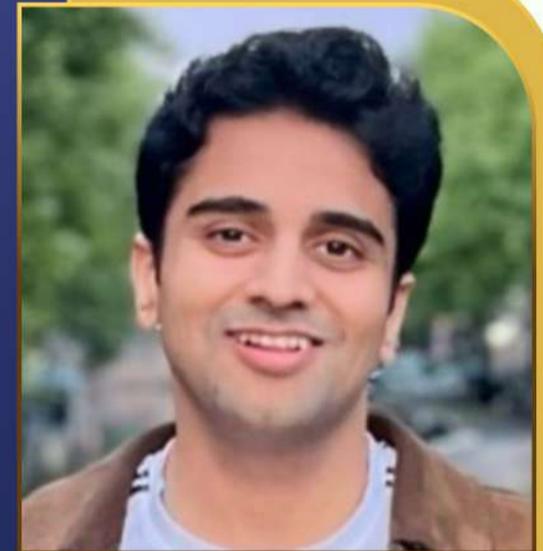
SHARK TANK JUDGE

ARPAN AJMERA

Arpan Ajmera is Chief of Staff at Endgame, working with Chess Grandmaster Hans Niemann on strategy and growth. With over a decade in venture capital and entrepreneurship, he previously served as Principal at VU Venture Partners, leading investments in Spyce, Touchcast, and Bear Flag Robotics. A former Accelerator Director for FoundersBoost NYC and Adjunct Professor at Purdue University, he has mentored founders who've raised over \$200 million and remains passionate about scaling impact-driven ventures.

PRANJAL DAGA

Pranjal Daga is Co-Founder of Accend (YC S23), a Y Combinator-backed startup that streamlines fintech operations and compliance using AI and automation. Previously, he held product roles at Brex and served as a VC Scout with Saison Capital. Active in the Bay Area startup ecosystem, he's been a Builder Fellow at Pear VC and an On Deck Founder Fellow. Earlier, he worked in machine learning at Cisco, Adobe Research, and IBM Research, and earned his M.S. in Computer Science from Purdue University.



SHARK TANK JUDGE

SID JAIN

Sid Jain is a seasoned angel investor and entrepreneur, best known as Co-Founder of HVB 88 Angels, an early-stage investment group backing 9-12 startups annually across technology, fintech, and consumer sectors. He also serves as President of AAAUM (OM) LLC, developing index-based investment solutions for institutional clients. Previously, he spent over a decade at KBW (A Stifel Company), managing \$10 billion in financial sector strategies. Mr. Jain holds an MBA from Fordham University and a PGDM from Savitribai Phule Pune University.



SHARK TANK JUDGE



Skills for the Modern Professional

WORKSHOP 1: BREAKOUT SESSIONS

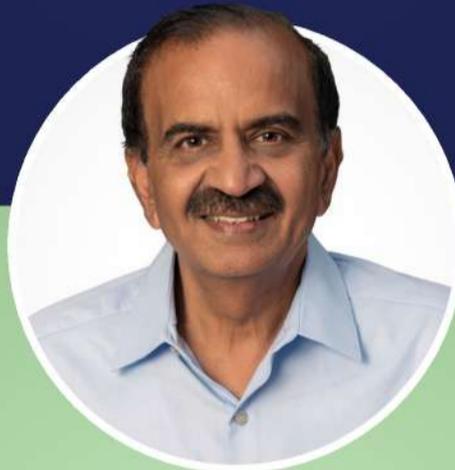
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8 | 11 – 12:30 PM



UNMUTE YOURSELF

Learn to communicate with confidence & authenticity using the Toastmasters method

JASON WISDOM



BLUEPRINT TO BUSINESS

Practice turning your ideas into viable ventures

PREM JAIN



ON & OFF THE GRID

Discover how to share your voice effectively & build communities which uplift each other

RUCHIKA JAIN & PANKTI DOSHI

The Collab Café

WORKSHOP 2: GUIDED NETWORKING

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8 | 2 – 3 PM

Meet like-minded professionals, share ideas, & spark meaningful collaborations during this dynamic session which blends structure with spontaneity.





YJP Shark Tank

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8 | 4 – 6:30 PM

Overview

YJP's signature startup-pitch competition — a fast-paced showcase for innovation and impact. Participants get 1 minute to pitch their idea and 2 minutes for Q&A with a panel of judges. With only one visual or slide allowed, presenters must deliver their vision clearly and coherently.

Judging Criteria

- **Clarity:** Idea communicated effectively
- **Innovation:** Originality and creativity
- **Impact:** Potential benefit to society or the Jain community
- **Feasibility:** Realistic execution potential



Cash Prizes

1st Place
\$2,501

2nd Place
\$1,501

3rd Place
\$1,001



Judging Panel



Arpan Ajmera
Chief of Staff, Endgame;
Angel Investor



Pranjal Daga
Co-Founder & CEO,
Accend (YC 23)



Sid Jain
Co-Founder,
HVB 88 Angels

How to Participate:

To enter, **scan** QR code or go to tinyurl.com/yjpconvention2025 to register for **YJP Convention** & select **"Yes"** for the Startup Pitch Competition question.

We'll send a follow-up form to collect more details from interested participants.





Nighttime Programming

Garba | Friday, Nov 7

Get ready for a night filled with swirls, twirls, & nonstop Bollywood bangers



R A A 5

On The Line

Midnight in Manhattan

Formal | Saturday, Nov 8

Enjoy an unforgettable evening of elegance amid the city lights



BEATS BY

DJ UMANG



Dress Code & Conduct

Our goal is to create a fun, safe, and inclusive experience that celebrates the diversity of all backgrounds.

This dress code is designed to empower attendees to wear what makes them feel confident and comfortable while participating in religious, social, and professional events.



Do



Don't

Daytime Programming (Sessions, Keynotes, Networking) | Business Casual

- Shirts: Collared shirts, crewnecks/V-necks, blouses, blazers, polos, or professional dresses
- Pants: slacks, trousers, skirts, & jeans without holes/frays
- Shoes: slip-ons, dress sandals, or clean athletic shoes



- T-shirts or muscle shirts
- Shorts, ripped jeans, leggings
- Flip-flops, slides, or hats
- Cropped blouses, Lehengas, or Saris

Casual Events (Ice-Breakers, Recreation Hour, Zumba) | Casual

- T-shirts, casual shirts, & hoodies
- Jeans, shorts, casual dresses, & leggings
- Comfortable sneakers, sandals, or flip-flops
- Sporty Casual



- Any clothing with prohibited graphics or messaging

Garba Night | Indian/Cultural

- Chaniya cholis, saris, lehengas, salwar kameez
- Kurta pyjama, sherwani, or dhoti kurta
- Long dresses or blouses with long skirts



- T-shirts or muscle shirts
- Shorts, ripped jeans, leggings
- Any clothing articles with prohibited attributes as described later in this document

Gala Night | Formal

- Suits, tuxedos, trousers, & formal shirts (with or without a tie)
- Formal dresses, gowns, or blouses with skirts/pants
- Dress shoes, heels, or loafers



- T-shirts or muscle shirts
- Shorts, ripped jeans, leggings
- Any clothing articles with prohibited attributes as described later in this document

Dress Code & Conduct

BUSINESS CASUAL



CASUAL

INDIAN/CULTURAL



FORMAL

Questions?

If you have any questions about your outfits or dress code expectations, please reach out — we're happy to help ensure everyone feels confident and respected throughout the event.

Catering Services



Meals by
BOMBAY TALK
📍 @bombay.talk



Desserts by
THE TREAT TABLE

📍 @thetreattable_boston



Snacks by
HOUSE OF SPICE

📍 @laxmifoodsbrand



Our 100% Jain, Vegan menu is proudly curated with our local partners.

THANK YOU!

Contact Us:

-  @youngjainprofessionals
-  @yjpconvention
-  yjp.jaina.org
-  info@yjp.jaina.org