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## India House Gala, An Evening Of Celebration And Recognition

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UH President & Chancellor Renu Khator; India's Consul-General D.C. Manjunath; Bollywood actor Boman Irani.

Wed, Oct 30, 2024

The 2024 India House Gala was a resounding success, uniting community leaders, dignitaries, and supporters for an unforgettable night filled with warmth, cultural celebration, and distinguished awards.

Held at the Omni Houston Hotel, the event was a true night to remember, featuring captivating performances and the heartfelt appearance of Bollywood icon Boman Irani, who received a standing ovation upon his entrance. His inspiring life stories and a soulful song delighted the audience.

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### Community

The evening began on time with a vibrant red-carpet welcome for all attendees. The program

opened with a beautiful rendition of the Indian National Anthem by Payel Mitra and the U.S. National Anthem by HPD Officer Kyuana J. Nelson. Adding a spiritual touch, Infused Performing Arts performed the Ganesha Vandana. ABC-13's Pooja Lodhia served as Mistress of Ceremonies, warmly welcoming the audience before introducing India House President, Pankaj Malani, who acknowledged the distinguished guests and elected officials in attendance while delivering his remarks.

Colonel Vipin Kumar (Retd.), Executive Director of India House, then gave an insightful overview of India House's mission, achievements, and ongoing programs, underscoring their vital role in supporting the Houston community.

The Consul General of India in Houston, D.C. Manjunath, joined as the evening's Chief Guest, sharing his appreciation for India House's impactful work. He was introduced by India House Trustee Hari Agrawal.

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The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Renu Khator, Chancellor of the University of Houston System and President of the University of Houston. She was introduced by India House Trustee Durga Agrawal.

The speeches were interspersed with a breathtaking semiclassical dance by Infused Performing Arts, earning enthusiastic applause.

The highlight of the evening was an electrifying segment featuring Boman Irani, whose warmth and humor captivated everyone. His reflections on life and career resonated deeply with the audience, leaving a lasting impression.

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The program continued with a prestigious awards ceremony, including:

- ☐ Lifetime Achievement Award: Presented to Hari & Anjali Agrawal
- ☐ Community Service Award: Presented to Dr. Reenu M. Varghese
- ☐ Young Volunteer Award: Presented to Shaan Bhagia





*Col. Vipin Kumar, left, Mahesh Wadhwa, Jugal Malani, Dr. Manish Rungta, Ashok Bhambhani, India House President Pankaj Malani, Dr. Renu Khator, Consul-General D.C. Manjunath, Shaan Bhagia, Boman Irani, Zenobia Irani, Hari Agrawal, Anjali Agrawal, Dr. Reenu Varghese, Paul Madan and Dr. Durga Agrawal.*

The seated dinner was a culinary delight, catered by Narin's Bombay Brasserie, and complemented by a Gallivant Ice Cream booth, fresh floral arrangements from HEB, and beautiful decorations by Touch of Elegance. The event's AV setup was expertly managed by Krishna Sound.

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Colonel Vipin Kumar concluded the evening with a heartfelt thank-you to all sponsors, supporters, and attendees, highlighting their integral role in furthering the mission of India House to empower and uplift the community. He also acknowledged ABC Travel and Total Wine & More for their valued contributions. During dinner, attendees enjoyed live singing performances by Payel Mitra, Anil Sadana, and Shrikant Pabrekar.

For more details about India House programs and activities, visit [www.indiahouseinc.org](http://www.indiahouseinc.org) or call 713-929-1900.

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1 / 5

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1 / 5



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