



*Shefali Razdan Duggal*

PRESS CLIPS

# Three Bay Area women honored for community work

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San Francisco Bay Area residents Gopi Godhwani, Anu Peshawaria and Shefali Razdan Duggal were awarded for their work in the Indian-American community. The ceremony was organized on the fifth anniversary of India Women Empowered, the women's wing of the Federation of Indo-Americans May 5, coinciding with Mother's Day.

Geeta Parthasarathi, wife of N Parthasarathi, India's consul general in San Francisco, wished the IWE and its president Anima Desai success in achieving their goals and in helping women excel in professional and personal lives.

'To me,' Geeta Parthasarathi told the guests, 'the idea of a perfect womanhood is perfect independence and I see that spirit and strength and solidarity is well incorporated in your mission... It is even more befitting ... that I am sitting

here and sharing the sentiments with women who are not only mothers but also highly successful and accomplished professionals.'

Godhwani received the award for her leading the seniors' wing at the India Community Center in Milpitas. "I feel that bringing our community together needs to be a central focus for us to create thriving, closely-knit communities," she told *India Abroad*. "This award is really a recognition of how far our community has come... As we see our kids and grandkids grow up, it's important we provide them with an environment where they can cherish the best of both the Indian and American cultures. I am proud to receive this award as our community becomes stronger and creates its foundation here."

Duggal was awarded for her political activism in President Obama's 2012 re-election campaign, and for her work with the local chapter of Human Rights Watch.

"South Asian women intermittently experience challenges within their environments," she said, "and invaluable organizations and positive resources like IWE mentor these women to persevere in the face of these obstacles."

Peshawaria was awarded for being a pioneer in Indian-American law and immigration rights. "Each award has a special significance," she said, "as it comes from the heart of the people. All awards come with an added sense of responsibility. This award of social responsibility instills in me the spirit to continue to work for the cause of immigrant women's rights."

The Bay Area-based IWE has grown in five years to 300 volunteers, has supported charitable organizations like the American Cancer Society, and has helped human-trafficking victims.



Shefali Razdan Duggal



Gopi Godhwani



Anu Peshawaria