

# Honorary Alumnus Tejinder Bindra

Tejinder Bindra is CEO of Jeetish Group of Companies. He immigrated to the United States in 1979, after completing an M.B.A. He co-founded Jeetish, an import company in 1979 along with his father and brother. Later Jeetish diversified into other businesses but remained under the umbrella of Jeetish Group of Companies, with interests in apparel, export/import and real estate.



Mr. Bindra is also the founder and president of the Sikh Art & Film Foundation, an organization that has been at the forefront of promoting Sikh heritage, art and culture in the United States. It sponsored "I See No Stranger," a major exhibition at The Rubin Museum of Art in New York that received rave reviews in *The New York Times* and other major publications. The foundation also hosts the very prestigious Annual Sikh Heritage Gala and Sikh International Film Festival.

Mr. Bindra sponsors the annual Vaisakhi celebrations at the Consulate General of India. He also partnered with the Jewish Community Relations Council to co-host "Connecting Building Bridges," an event that was jointly inaugurated by Consul Generals of India and Israel. Mr. Bindra is also the founder and president of the Sikh Organization of New York and has led two very successful delegations to

the state government, on behalf of the Sikh-American community. These efforts resulted in Vaisakhi being recognized as a "Sikh American Day" by the state government, and in the introduction of an assembly resolution for the freedom of wearing turbans by the state police and other state employees.

Sardar Ishar Singh Bindra, Mr. Bindra's father, endowed the Sardarni Kuljit Kaur Bindra Chair in Sikh Studies at Hofstra University and also established the Guru Nanak Interfaith Prize to promote religious tolerance. Past recipients of the prize are His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama Tenzin Gyatso, Rabbi Arthur Schneier, and Religions for Peace.

Mr. Bindra serves on the Hofstra University Board of Trustees and has previously served on the board of United Way of Long Island. Mr. Bindra has been honored many times by various Indian and American organizations for his leadership role in the community. He is also the proud recipient of the prestigious 2011 Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Tejinder Bindra is involved in many other social, educational and cultural activities that promote the betterment of the society in which he lives.

He and his wife, Harinder, have two wonderful children, Raj and Sumeet.