# **Prime minister inducts medical innovator & philanthropist into NZ’s Indian Hall of Fame**

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Manukau GP, businessman, community stalwart and QSM Dr Kantilal Patel is the latest inductee into the Indian Hall of Fame.

Prime Minister John Key inducted Dr Patel into the hall of fame at Thursday’s award ceremony held in Auckland at the Langham Hotel. The glittering event drew several other high profile politicians: Sam Lotu-Iiga, Jami-Lee Ross, Winston Peters, Phil Goff and David Shearer.

Dr Patel is founding director of Nirvana Health Group, which began as a solo GP practice in Otara in 1977 and is now the largest private, clinician-owned network of general practices in New Zealand.

A Distinguished Fellow of the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners, a founding member of the WONCA (World Organisation of National Colleges, Academies and Academic Associations of Family Physicians), a Queen’s Service Medal recipient for services to medicine and the Indian Community, Dr Patel is also a founding trustee of New Zealand’s first mainstream Primary Health Organisation: Total Healthcare Charitable Trust.

To his credit, Nirvana and its medical providers like East Tamaki Healthcare have a string of business, innovation and strategy awards as well as recognition from the Equal Employment Opportunities Trust as an organisation which embraces diversity.

A founding trustee of the Bharitiya Mandir temple in Balmoral, chair of the International Swaminarayan Satsang Organisation, Dr Patel also built the Hindu Temple in Papatoetoe.

Despite the long list of accolades, awards and achievements, Dr Patel is humbled by his induction into the Indian Hall of Fame.

“For me, having recognition for this award is extremely gratifying. Our profession is extremely tough, and I would not be here without my patients, my partners and my clinical leaders. These people, for whom I am so deeply grateful for their trust, hard work and more so their commitment to service, are the true heroes,” Dr Patel says.

“But actually I thought this award is most deserved for my wife, Ranjna. We had completely different upbringings. We spoke different, sounded different, but not once in the 42 years of marriage has she made me feel different as she worked with my strengths and weaknesses. What Ranjna has achieved as an individual is impressive. She is a true rock to me, my family and Nirvana.

“I am very proud to be associated with many Indian New Zealanders who are working in the community. I am grateful to this beautiful country for having provided me and my family a safe, rewarding and enriching life. I will continue to do whatever I can to serve those of need, and bring whatever skills I can to the development of a better community.”

The Indian Hall of fame honours members of the Indian community who have made significant achievements in New Zealand and, as such, have contributed positively towards the progress of this nation. The event is run by the *Indian Weekender.*

**Images attached, caption: Dr Kantilal Patel receives his Hall of Fame award from Prime Minister John Key. PHOTO CREDIT: Kuntal Trivedi from Kimaya Creations**

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