

January 13, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



## MAI (MARATHI AAI INITIATIVE) CELEBRATES MAKAR SANKRANTI WITH RENOWNED ACTOR ASHVINI BHAVE AT SOLD-OUT BAY AREA EVENT

High resolution pictures available via email upon request or [here](#).

News provided by

MAI (Marathi Aai Initiative)

Fremont, California | January 13, 2026

MAI (Marathi Aai Initiative), a national nonprofit community of Marathi mothers in the United States, hosted a sold-out Makar Sankranti Haldi-Kunku celebration on **Sunday, January 11, 2026, organized by its Bay Area chapter**. The gathering brought together over 100 women for an evening of ritual, conversation, cultural identity, and community giving, **with renowned actor and mother Ashvini Bhavé as the special guest**. The MAI Bay Area committee welcomed guests with traditional haldi-kunku rituals and a ceremonial vaan brought from India. They styled the venue to resemble a conventional Marathi courtyard, reinforcing the celebration's cultural significance.

A central moment of the evening was a moderated, informal conversation with Ashvini Bhavé, who candidly reflected on motherhood, staying rooted in Marathi values, and raising children across cultures. The exchange resonated deeply with attendees navigating similar experiences in the diaspora. It formed the heart of the gathering, followed by photographs and informal conversations over a shared community banquet-style dinner.

The event also generated meaningful philanthropic impact. **Within four days, the MAI Bay Area community moms raised \$1,077**, which was donated to **Home of Hope**, a nonprofit **supported by Ashvini Bhavé**. Home of Hope provides shelter, education, and long-term pathways to independence for vulnerable women and children in India.

The event also featured a fashion showcase in which community mothers walked the ramp in black sarees styled in both traditional and contemporary ways. Presented in partnership with sponsoring saree brands, the showcase celebrated everyday women and reflected motherhood, cultural pride, and the confidence of women navigating multiple roles while thriving themselves and raising a family here in a foreign land.

### Sayli Natu, Co-Founder of MAI, said:

"Ashvini Tai (Ashvini Bhavé) brought extraordinary grace, depth, and warmth into the room. The kind that comes from a life lived fully as an artist, a woman, and a mother. What also made the evening truly powerful was how that admiration from our community turned into a genuine, mother-to-mother connection. We are grateful for her thoughtful and generous conversation with our community. Watching our Bay Area committee bring this vision to life, seeing our mothers rise to that energy and bring pride and confidence in themselves and our culture, and witnessing our community come together to raise funds for Ashvini Tai's chosen nonprofit made this celebration deeply meaningful."

### Kshitija Karmarkar, Co-Founder of MAI, added:

"MAI was built on the belief that culture survives through shared, lived experience. This gathering brought that belief to life through the rituals we honored, the conversations we created, and the cause we supported together. Having Ashvini Bhavé be part of this moment added depth to an evening rooted in community, continuity, and intention. We deeply value her candid and warm conversation with us on a beautiful MAI evening."

Makar Sankranti is traditionally observed as a festival of renewal, gratitude, and community, marking the transition of the sun into Uttarayan and the beginning of longer days. MAI's Bay Area celebration reflected this spirit by bringing Marathi women together in a shared expression of ritual, reflection, and cultural continuity, aiming to inspire ongoing community engagement and cultural preservation.

### EVENT DETAILS

**Event:** Makar Sankranti Haldi-Kunku Celebration

**Hosted by:** MAI Bay Area

**Special Guest:** Actor and mother, Ashvini Bhavé

**Date:** January 11, 2026

**Location:** Bay Area, California

**Format:** Cultural celebration, moderated conversation, fashion show ramp walk, haldi-kunku ceremony, community dinner, and philanthropy drive

### ABOUT MAI (MARATHI AAI INITIATIVE)

MAI (Marathi Aai Initiative) is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing together Marathi-raised mothers through cultural programs, shared dialogue, and community-led experiences. The initiative supports mothers navigating parenthood in the American diaspora while preserving cultural identity and values across generations.

### MEDIA CONTACT

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