It’s official! Highgate’s Namaaste Highgate named London’s Best Asian Restaurant at the 2026 Asian Curry Awards

The Indian restaurant that opened during the pandemic celebrates a second consecutive award, while chef-patron and British Airways Inflight Leader Sabbir Karim joins the evening’s guest speakers.



London, United Kingdom Nov 20, 2026 (Issuewire.com**)** - Namaaste Highgate, the modern Indian restaurant that opened in Highgate Village during the COVID-19 pandemic, has been named **Best Asian Restaurant of the Year (London)** at the 16th Asian Curry Awards.

The award was presented on Sunday 15 November at the Asian Catering Federation’s gala dinner in the Great Room at Grosvenor House, Park Lane, Mayfair. Attended by 1,200 VIP guests, the evening was hosted by BBC news presenter Samantha Simmonds and Anisa Khan, owner of Bombay Pizza and a finalist on *The Apprentice*.

The win marks a second consecutive year of recognition for Namaaste Highgate, following its award for Best Asian Restaurant in the London Suburb category in 2025.

Winners were selected by the Asian Catering Federation’s judging panel from finalists chosen through a public vote. The awards celebrate Asian cuisines across categories including fine dining, casual dining, takeaway and vegetarian restaurants.

“I’m incredibly proud of our team, both in the kitchen and front of house. They put so much care into what they do, and this award is for them,” said **Sabbir Karim, chef-patron of Namaaste Highgate**.

“Opening during the pandemic was a big step for us, and I’ll always remember how Highgate welcomed us. Some of the people who came in those early days still come back with their friends and families. I want to thank them for their support. It feels wonderful to bring this award home to Highgate Village.”

Karim combines running his restaurants with flying as an **Inflight Leader for British Airways**, where he has worked for more than 30 years. He is also studying for a law degree at the University of West London.

In its official winners’ announcement, the Asian Catering Federation named Karim among the evening’s guest speakers, highlighting his roles as a **trustee of The Sreepur Village** and **founder of the SN Free Primary Health Care Trust in Bangladesh**.

Karim has supported The Sreepur Village’s work with vulnerable mothers and children for nearly three decades. In 2023, he founded the healthcare trust in his home village of Ekatuna, in Bangladesh’s Moulvibazar district. Its monthly medical camps provide free consultations, basic tests, and medicines. By October 2026, the trust had held 43 camps and reached more than 7,500 people through its healthcare programmes.

Through the Sabbir Karim Foundation, he has also supported youth sports and provided one-off assistance to people facing poverty and hardship since 2018.

At the 2025 Asian Curry Awards, Karim received the **Special Recognition Award for Outstanding Contribution to Charity and Community Service**.

Namaaste Highgate is part of the Namaaste Group, alongside Namaaste Kitchen in Camden Town and Salaam Namaste in Bloomsbury.









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