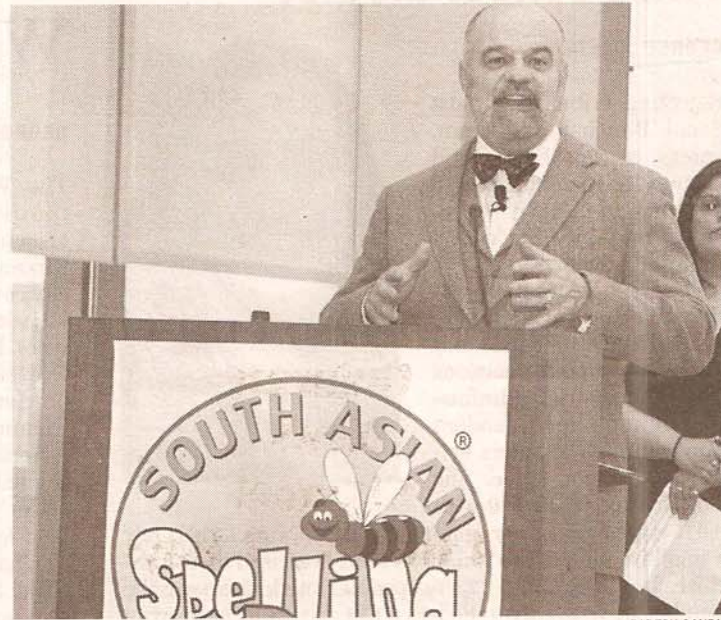


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PARESH GANDHI

Joseph W. Jordan of MetLife at the press conference to announce the South Asian Spelling Bee

## South Asian Spelling Bee launched

### A CORRESPONDENT

The 2009 South Asian Spelling Bee contest was launched in New York last week. Starting June 20, the contest — sponsored by insurance major MetLife and open to children of South Asian descent up to 14 years of age — will be conducted in New York, New Jersey, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, San Francisco Bay area, Los Angeles and the Washington, DC, metro area. The events will be free and open to the public.

Each competition will begin with a written test of 25 words. The participants must spell 15 or more words correctly to advance to the oral round. The top three in the oral round will receive prize money. The top two of each regional competition will advance to the finals to be held in New Jersey in August. MetLife will present a \$5,000 scholarship to the champion at the final event.

'We are proud to sponsor this year's South Asian Spelling Bee,' said Joseph W. Jordan, senior vice president, National Sales Organization, MetLife, 'and to help families achieve their dreams of attaining the best education for their children.'

The bee will be telecast worldwide — except India and Pakistan — on Sony Entertainment Television, Asia.

To participate, parents or guardians must enroll their children online at [www.southasianspellingbee.com](http://www.southasianspellingbee.com)