



This is our eighth edition of Sandesh (the e-newsletter for IAN) for 2014. The second half of 2014 has rolled off to a very busy start. The 68th Independence day and the first ACT/SAT panel discussions were the main events hosted by IAN in Aug 2014.

An Executive Committee (EC) meeting was held on the 17th of this month to discuss the health clinic, Rhythms and any other fund raising opportunities. A separate meeting was held on Aug 3rd to co-ordinate and to discuss the first ACT/SAT panel discussions.

Schools/Universities committee Co-Chairperson's Message:

Dear IAN parents and students,

Hope you all had a great summer! The beginning of the school year is accompanied by transitions for some families from Elementary to Middle school or from Middle to High school. This change can be both exciting and at the same time confusing, as there is a lot of information to process.

A common question for most families with kids in Middle School and High School encounter is "what is SAT/ACT all about". Though ACT/SAT's are taken in the junior year of high school, both parents and children begin thinking and preparing for it way before that. The beginning of that preparation starts with a lot of questions - what does my son/daughter need, to get into a good college? How much preparation is needed for SAT/ACT above regular homework? How to balance time between High School, SAT/ACT test preparation, extra circular activities and volunteer work?

As this is a very common concern, and most of us do not have the benefit of attending High school in this country, the best way to deal with it is to be an informed parent. In an effort to help parents and children we have decided to put together a student panel of senior/college students who have been through this process and are willing to share their experience to help the younger students. This will hopefully help clear some issues and help students prepare better. We plan to follow up with mock tests soon, to give students more practice and help them with their test taking ability.

Best regards,
Prasad Dharmavarapu
Co-Chair, Schools/Universities Committee, India Association of Nebraska

Highlights:

EVENT: ACT/SAT Panel Discussion

The first ACT/SAT panel discussion was held on Aug 17th 2014 from 4:00 – 5:00 pm, before the Independence day celebrations. The panel comprised of 9 students and the discussion was moderated by Dr. Amarnath Natarajan and Dr. Jyothi Arikath. 42 middle and high school students registered through the IAN website, to participate in the event.



Independence day celebrations

India's 68th Independence day was celebrated on Aug 17th 2014. Dr. Sunny Andrews, a founding member of IAN was the chief guest and he shared his views from yesteryears and walked us thorough the changes that have happened in Omaha and IAN.

Dr. Sanjay Singh was the Guest of honor for being the recipient of the Lifetime achievement award from the Government of India.

A short cultural program followed and at the end the new students at UNO and UNMC were introduced on stage.



Spotlight:

STATE: Punjab

Punjab is situated in the northern part of India. It is the nineteenth largest state by area. Punjab means “the land of five rivers”. The 5 major rivers are – Beas, Sutlej, Chenab, Ravi and Jehlum. Punjab is bordered by Jammu and Kashmir to the north, Pakistan to the west, Haryana and Rajasthan to the south and Himachal Pradesh to the east.

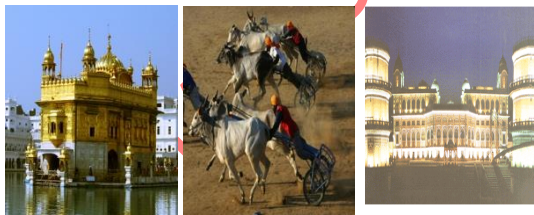


Chandigarh, a union territory, is its capital. Some of the large cities in Punjab are Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Amritsar and Patiala. Punjabi is the primary language. Some well-known personalities who hail from Punjab include Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the founder of Sikh Empire, Nobel laureate Har Gobind Khorana, astronaut Kalpana Chawla and innumerable film and media persona. Punjab is one of the most fertile regions in India. Agriculture is the largest industry and Punjab is the largest producer of wheat in India. It is known as “India’s bread basket”. Punjab has been able to successfully maintain the recognition of “Best Overall State” for 11 years in a row.



Sikhism is the predominant faith in Punjab. The major festivals celebrated are Vaisakhi (establishment of Khalsa), Hola Mohalla (first day of lunar month Chett), Gurburb (anniversary of Guru’s birth/death) and Diwali

There are many elements to the Punjabi culture including music such as bhangra. There are a large number of dances including the energetic Bhangra for men and Gidha for women or the reserved Jhumar.



The Sri Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple), the holiest of the Sikh shrines, is located in Amritsar. The Wagah border hosts a flag lowering ceremony everyday, which lasts 45 minutes. Kila Raipur, close to Ludhiana, hosts Rural Olympics in February. Opulent palaces and garden can be seen in Patiala.

Punjabi cuisine has an immense range of dishes and is world renown. Sarson da saag (mustard leaf curry), Maki di roti (corn roti), chole bhature, Naan and mutter paneer are a few well-known dishes. Yogurt is often used as a side to most dishes.



IAN's Event Calendar for 2014

Event	Date	Location	Time
Solo Singing Competitions	1/26/2014	Hindu Temple Social Hall	2:30 pm to 4:30 pm
65 th Republic Day	1/26/2014	Hindu Temple Social Hall	5:00 pm to 7:00 pm
NSF Bee contests (Spelling, Math, Geography and Vocabulary)	4/26/2014 4/27/2014	UNO Mammel hall	8:00 am to 5:00 pm 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Health fair	05/10/2014	Hindu Temple Social Hall	8:00 am to 12:00 noon
ACT/SAT panel discussion	8/17/2014	Hindu Temple Social Hall	4:00 pm to 5:00 pm
68 th Independence Day	8/17/2014	Hindu Temple Social Hall	5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Health Fair	8/31/2014	Hindu Temple Social Hall	8:00 am – 11:00 am
ACT/SAT mock tests	Sep 2014	Hindu Temple Social Hall	TBD
Flu Shot day	Sep or Oct 2014	Bal Vihar classrooms	TBD
Rhythms of India	10/18/14	Westside High School	TBD
Odissi Performance	TBD	Hindu Temple Social Hall	TBD
Sports Day	TBD	Multiple locations	TBD
Bollywood dance competitions	TBD	Hindu Temple Social Hall	TBD

For participating in the cultural programs in Rhythms please contact Mrs. Sawthi Ponnappalli at swathiharitha@gmail.com.

Appeal:

Please do renew your membership or signup for life membership if you are not currently life members. Membership can be obtained by filling the info at <http://www.indiaassociationofnebraska.org/Membership.aspx> and the payment is made securely thru PayPal. Your membership is tax deductible as IAN is a non-profit organization.

If you would like to volunteer for any upcoming IAN events please email info@indiaassociationofnebraska.org

If you are interested in contributing articles or have suggestions for Sandesh please email us at publications@indiaassociationofnebraska.org

Like IAN : <https://www.facebook.com/pages/India-Association-of-Nebraska/148111838633174>

THANK YOU

Articles gathered and edited by Smitha Amar and Malathi Balu

Appendix A: Complete IAN Committee 2014

President	Mr. Joseph Selvaraj
President Elect	Mr. Srinivasarao Mallipudi
Secretary	Mr. Sundar Chokkara
Treasurer	Mr. Venu Potineni
Past President	Mr. Muralidhar Chintapalli
Permanent Member	Dr. Syed Mohiuddin
Permanent Member	Dr. Alekha Dash
Member 2014	Dr. Amarnath Natarajan
Member 2014	Mrs. Asha Deshpande
Member 2014	Mr. Gowridhar Madu
Member 2014	Dr. Meera Varman

Committee	Chair	Co-chair	Members
Banquet	Mr. Kantha Raju Etigi	Mrs. Deepa Kashyap	
Community Service	Dr. Alekha Das	Mr. Srinivasarao Mallipudi	
Cultural	Mrs. Swati Ponnappalli	Mr. Gowridhar Madu	Mr. Arun Prasad Mrs. Keerthi Ranjith
Education	Dr. Babu Guda	Mr. Tirumala Chengalasetty	Mr. Shankar Kuppa
Emergency Response	Mr. Sunil Singh	Mr. Muralidhar Chintapalli	Mr. Ravi Kumar Mr. Rony Kappuzha Mr. Shivashankar Yadav Mrs. Swarna Gopi Mr. Venkat
Finance	Mr. Venu Potineni	Mr. Pradeep Somavarapu	
Information Technology	Mr. Ishroop Aneja	Mr. Raj Deeduvanu	Mr. Jay Pawar
Long Range Planning committee	Dr. Sanjay Singh	Dr. Phani T Adidam	Past Presidents
Membership	Mr. Arul Nambi	Mr. Srinivas Nimmagadda	Mr. Ratish Gopal
Publications	Dr. Rakesh Singh	Dr. Vimal Kandasamy	Mrs. Anjana Mukherjee Mrs. Bhanu Sethupathy Mrs. Devi Kotaru Miss. Kinjal Vyas Mrs. Latha Kishore Mrs. Malathi Balu Mrs. Mrudula Potineni Mrs. Ramanpreet Aneja Mrs. Smitha Kizhake
Nomination	Mr. Muralidhar Chintapalli		
Public Relations	Dr. Meera Varman	Mr. Gowridhar Madu	
Schools/Universities	Mr. Sanjeevi Mariappan	Mr. Prasad Dharmavarapu	High School/University Students
Sports	Mr. Krishna Ravipati	Mr. Dilip Bhavani	
Youth	Mr. Venkat Kiran	Mr. Venkat Perla	
Volunteer	Mr. Vijay Anand	Mr. Vijay Varma	Mr. SriHarish Rajakumar