



This is our twelfth and final edition of Sandesh (the e-newsletter for IAN) for the year 2014. The publication committee is proud to have published a new edition of Sandesh every month this year. All the published editions can be found at <http://www.indiaassociationofnebraska.org/Sandesh.aspx>

Every edition of Sandesh was comprised of three parts – an editorial, a highlight and a spotlight. The editorial featured messages from various committee chairpersons and it provided some information about the committees' that comprise IAN and their function. In the highlight section, one event organized by IAN that month was featured and we aimed to provide a glimpse into the event. In the spotlight section we also worked on presenting the State series, which was aimed at being informational and provided some little known facts about many of the Indian states. This final edition contains a quick recap of the events in the year gone by and the operating budget for 2014.

On behalf of all of us at the editorial desk, we would like to extend our deepest thanks to all the committee chairpersons, who took time out of their busy schedules to put together editorials for each month. We would also like to thank the president Mr. Joseph Selvaraj for his constant support and availability to help.

President's Message:

Dear Friends,

Namaste! It is hard to believe that our team has completed the yearly term and contributed their best to the community. Together we did it! We are happy to announce that this year, we are adding \$15,000 to the long term funds of IAN.

This year with the relentless effort of many dedicated volunteers, great sponsors and supporters, we were able to conduct many events and we received excellent feedback from our members. The continuous support we got from our community is commendable. We couldn't have done this without your support and co-operation. Our sincere thanks to each and every one of you!

We are deeply saddened by the loss and damage caused by the floods in Jammu & Kashmir and by the cyclone in Andhra Pradesh. We raised around \$10,000 for both events and donated the funds to various non-profit NGO organizations.

The final EC meeting was held on Dec 28th followed by the annual General Body meeting, featuring presentations by the treasurer and secretary. This was followed by election of members who will serve in 2015. I congratulate the new Executive Committee. I am confident that the new team will do their best, and as members of this organization we must support them as needed.

Thank you once again, for helping the India Association of Nebraska in serving our community.

We wish you an excellent year ahead. Happy New Year 2015!

Joseph Selvaraj
 President, India Association of Nebraska

2014 Income Statement - IAN		
2014 Beginning Balance	\$3,109.36	Operating balance carry forward from 2013
Income		
Charity Food Donation	\$1,755.81	Stephen center food donation
NSF Bees	\$444.75	NSF Mugs sales 28 at \$5 + food sale
Membership	\$3,190.00	
Rhythms - Sponsorship	\$18,647.00	
Rhythms - Tickets	\$4,167.45	
Rhythms - Food	\$905.00	
HudHud fundraiser	\$4,257.00	
Total Income	\$33,367.01	
Expenses		
Administration	\$291.72	
Charity - Food Donation	\$1,643.26	Stephen center food donation
Scholarships	\$1,500.00	
Monetary donation	\$2,000.00	
NSF Bees	\$1,072.82	
Repblic Day	\$480.72	
Health Fair	\$45.90	
Independence Day	\$490.11	
Rhythms	\$6,046.71	
HudHud Lunch expense	\$568.06	
Total Expenses	\$14,139.30	
HudHud Relief fund distribution	\$3,688.94	Check to be issued
2014 Ending Balance	\$18,648.13	

Highlights: RECAP of 2014

- IAN activities for 2014 began with the second annual Solo singing competitions followed by the 65th republic day celebrations on the 26th of January.
- After a brief two-month hiatus, the IAN activities resumed with the Bee contests held in conjunction with the North South foundation. This was our third annual Bee contest, which featured more categories and saw an all time high participation of 200 contestants.
- This year two health fairs were organized. The first one was held in May, in association with One World Omaha, and provided free screens for blood sugar and cholesterol for uninsured parents who were visiting or under-insured community members.
- After a quiet summer the events resumed with a bang with the 68th Independence celebrations. This event was preceded by the first ever ACT/SAT panel discussions. This was a good forum for both the children and parents to gain more information about the content of the tests and preparation strategies.
- The second Health fair was held at the end of August.
- Rhythms, the biggest cultural event organized by IAN was held in November and as usual attracted a large crowd (700), despite the snowstorm that was brewing outside.

Apart from all the cultural, educational events and health fairs, IAN is also involved in many humanitarian projects both inside and outside the country.

- Every month IAN sponsors a Feed the hungry event at St. Stephen's center. The response this year was overwhelming with sponsors for all the months being filled up after just one announcement. Thank you all for taking the time to help.
- Another component added to IAN last year was the Emergency response Committee. They have been called upon twice this year to serve the community. In these unfortunate situations it is heartwarming to see the community come together and make us feel we are not so far from home!
- IAN also provides \$500 to the food bank and \$500 scholarships to deserving students – one each from Bellevue University, Creighton, UNMC and UNO.
- In India, IAN supports the blind foundation of India, which conducts screening, treatment, surgeries and also provides kits for blind children. IAN also supports Nanhi Kali, which helps provide education to economically disadvantaged girls in India for 10 years.

IAN has had a busy and productive 2014 with multiple diverse events, many of which were organized for the first time. The Indian community in Omaha is continuously growing and each event is now becoming larger, with greater participation from the community. Please continue your support towards IAN in the upcoming years.

All of these events and projects will not be possible without the vast amount of time and energy invested by the volunteers and organizers. IAN is an all-volunteer organization and cannot function effectively and efficiently without the input, support and hard work of the community. Please consider donating your time or effort to make it a better and more successful entity.

Wish you all a very happy 2015.

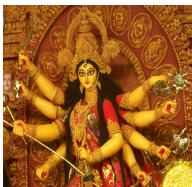
Spotlight:

STATE: West Bengal

West Bengal is situated in the eastern part of India. It is India's 14th largest state by area and fourth largest by population. It is bordered by Sikkim, Bhutan and Nepal to the north, Bihar and Jharkhand to the west, Odisha to the south and Assam and Bangladesh to the east. The state stretches from the Himalayas in the north to the Ganges delta in the south.

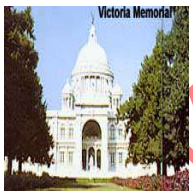


Kolkatta is both its capital and largest city. Kolkatta, also known as the “cultural capital of India” is also the third largest urban agglomeration in India. Some of the other large cities in West Bengal are Howrah, Durgapur, Raniganj, Haldia and Jalpaiguri. Bengali is the primary language. Some well-known personalities who hail from West Bengal include authors like Rabindranath Tagore, Sarojini Naidu and Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, movie stalwarts like Satyajit Ray, Kishore Kumar and Mrinal Sen and reformists like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Subhash Chandra Bose and Swami Vivekananda. Agriculture is the primary industry and West Bengal is the 6th largest contributor to India's net domestic product.



Durga Puja is most fervently celebrated festival. Other festivals celebrated include Poila Baisakh (Bengali New Year), Rath Yatra (Chariot procession), Buddha Purnima (Buddha's birthday), Eid-ul-Fitr (breaking of month long fast) and Christmas.

West Bengal has a rich cultural heritage. Bengali folk dances draw inspiration from tribal dances and Chau is a unique tribal martial mask dance. Folk music includes Baul, Gombhira and Bhawaiya. Bengal was also the harbinger of modernism in fine arts.



Some note-worthy places to visit include the Sunderbans (world's largest mangrove forest), the Cooch Behar Palace (designed on the model of Buckingham Palace), the Hazar Duari Palace, Darjeeling (hill station), the Jaldapara National park (largest population of one-horned rhinoceros), the Howrah bridge (world's busiest cantilever bridge), Victoria memorial, Shantiniketan (university town founded by Tagore) and Katra masjid.

Bengali cuisine consists primarily of rice and fish. Sweets occupy an important place in their social ceremonies. Sarse Ilish (fish curry in mustard sauce), Beguni (eggplant fritters) Roshogolla (cottage cheese balls in sugar syrup) and Sondesh (milk and sugar sweet) are very popular 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
Rhythms of India	11/15/14	Westside High School	3:00 pm – 9:00 pm

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: Feed the hunger sponsors list

Month	Sponsor
Jan 2014	Dr. Alekha Dash
Feb 2014	Mr. Sundar Chokkara
Mar 2014	Mr. Jay Tedla
Apr 2014	Kannada Koota
May 2014	Mr. Prasad Dharmavarapu
Jun 2014	Dr. Babu Guda
Jul 2014	Mrs. Nina Mote
Aug 2014	Mr. Srinivasarao Mallipudi
Sep 2014	Mr. Tirumal Chengalsetty
Oct 2014	Mr. Vijay Varma Pakalpati
Nov 2014	Mr. Satish Muktineni
Dec 2014	Mr. Venu Potineni

INDIA ASSOCIATION OF NEBRASKA

Appendix B: 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