



This is our second edition of Sandesh (the e-newsletter for IAN) for 2014. The IAN's second Executive Committee meeting was held on 2/16/14 at the Hindu temple.

Among the agenda items discussed were - feedback from the recently held Republic day celebrations and planning for the upcoming the NSF Bee contests, sports competition and health fair.

Presidents Message:

Dear Friends

Namaskar,

I am happy to be writing again on our second newsletter. Our committee members are working hard to provide various services to our community and beyond. This month we are highlighting one of the longest IAN's community service – feed the hunger.

I would like to request the community members to take an active part in the upcoming bee contests. The contests are divided into nine different sections and each section has two phases. The second phase of each section is further divided into two sub groups. A large number of volunteers (more than 50) are required to handle varied positions including - scoring, handling the dictionary, keeping time etc. If you would like to help out by volunteering please send us an email at info@indiaassociationofnebraska.org. A workshop will be organized on March 30th from 2 – 6 pm to coordinate the efforts. Please pass this information along.

The support and extraordinary work from everyone in the committee promises better delivery of IAN services this year. I would like to thank all the members and volunteers for their hard work, time and support. Please participate actively in all the events, which will make them a grand success.

Please do contact us at <http://www.indiaassociationofnebraska.org/contactus.aspx> with any suggestions on how we as an organization can do better things for the benefit of the community. Thank you.

Best regards,
Joe Selvaraj
President, India Association of Nebraska

Highlights:

Feed the hungry:

Feed the hunger program is one of the many community service events organized and conducted by IAN. IAN has been sponsoring a Feed the hunger program for over 10 years. One person sponsors the food required for a given month, which is typically around \$200 and the food is served on every third Sunday at 5:30pm at St. Stephen's center.

IAN volunteers donate time and serve Pizza, Pop and Fried rice. The IAN sponsored event at St. Stephen's is greatly welcomed by those who avail the services.

Sponsor	Month
Dr. Aleka Dash	Jan 2014
Mr. Sundar Chokkara	Feb 2014
Mr. Jay Tedla	Mar 2014
Kannada Koota	Apr 2014
Mr. Srinivasarao Mallipudi	Aug 2014
TBD	May, Jun, Jul, Sep, Oct, Nov 2014
Mr. Venu Potineni	Dec 2014



Please visit the IAN website shown below or contact us via email shown below to sign up to sponsor or to participate in this humanitarian activity for a month.

<http://www.indiaassociationofnebraska.org/ShowFeedHunger.aspx>.

Email : info@indiaassociationofnebraska.org

Spotlight:

GUJARAT:

Gujarat is situated in the Northwest coast of India. It is the seventh largest state by area and tenth largest by population. It was one of the main centers of the Indus Valley civilization and has three major rivers – Sabarmati, Tapi and Narmada run across the state. Gujarat is bordered by Rajasthan, to the north, Madhya Pradesh to the east, Maharashtra to the south and the Arabian sea on the west.

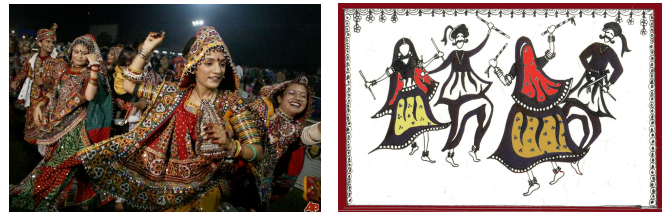


Ahmedabad is its largest city and Gandhinagar is the capital. Other large cities are Surat, Vadodara, Rajkot, Bhavnagar, Jamnagar and Junagadh. Gujarati is the primary language. Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Vallabhai Patel are two noted historians who hailed from Gujarat. Gujarat has the largest business corporations in India.



Many festivals are celebrated here like Uttarayan (Sankranti), Navaratri, Diwali, Holi, Tazia (procession held for the 11th Imam), and Christmas. The kite flying during Uttarayan is a highlight.

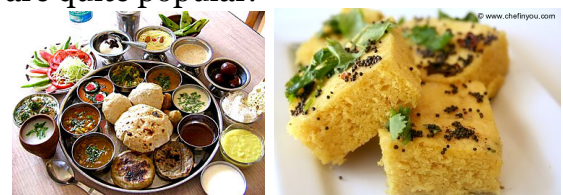
The most famous dance form originating in Gujarat is Garbha (for women) and Dandiya (for men) mainly performed during the Navaratri season. Folk theatre known as Bhavai dedicated to Amba (Goddess Durga), is also performed during this time and it is part entertainment and part ritual.



Prominent places to visit in Gujarat range from the Great Rann of Kutch (largest saltwater dessert) to the hills of Saputara. Gujarat is the sole home of pure Asiatic lions in the world. The Somnath temple and many museums offer a diverse range of options for varied tastes.

Gujarati food is primarily vegetarian and believed to be one of the healthiest in India. A typical Gujarati Thali consists of Bhajri no Rotlo (Bajra Roti), Kadi (besan based gravy) Biranj (rice) and Sabzi (vegetables). Most dishes are sweet, spicy and salty at the same time. Chundo (sweet mango pickle), Shrikhand (yogurt based sweet), and Dhokla (made

from fermented rice and chick peas) are quite popular.



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	9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Odissi Performance	TBD	Hindu Temple Social Hall	TBD
ACT/SAT mock tests	Jun – Jul	Hindu Temple Social Hall	TBD
Sports Day	Jul	Multiple locations	TBD
Solo dance competitions	Aug	Hindu Temple Social Hall	TBD
68 th Independence Day	Aug	Hindu Temple Social Hall	TBD
Health Fair	8/31/2014	Hindu Temple Social Hall	TBD
Flu Shot day	Sep or Oct 2014	Bal Vihar classrooms	TBD
Rhythms of India	TBD	TBD	TBD

Please see next page for further details about the NSF bee contests

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 Mrs. Malathi Balu and Mrs. Smitha Amar.

NSF's Bee Contests

The Indian Association of Nebraska, in coordination with the North South Foundation (NSF) Nebraska chapter is organizing four bee contests (Spelling, Vocabulary, Math and Geography Bee) for the kids of Indian origin. Registration is now open & the contests will be conducted on April 26th and 27th, 2014 at UNO Mammel Hall. **Register early to download the practice materials.** Qualified kids will get to participate in the NSF National Finals that will be held at Dallas, TX on 8/16 - 8/17/2014.

Spelling Bee	Junior	(For children in Grades 1-3)	4/26/14 9:00 AM
	Intermediate	(For children in Grades 4-8)	4/26/14 9:00 AM
Vocabulary Bee	Junior	(For children in Grades 1-3)	4/26/14 1:00 PM
	Senior	(For children in Grades 4-8)	4/26/14 1:00 PM
Math Bee	Level 1	(For children in Grades 1-2)	4/27/14 9:00 AM
	Level 2	(For children in Grades 3-5)	4/27/14 9:00 AM
	Level 3	(For children in Grades 6-8)	4/27/14 9:00 AM
Geography Bee	Junior	(For children in Grades 1-3)	4/27/14 12:00 Noon
	Senior	(For children in Grades 4-8)	4/27/14 12:00 Noon

Venue: Mammel Hall, UNO, Omaha

Date and Time: April 26/27th, 2014, 9:00 AM to 5:00PM

Contact: Ravi 402-617-3695, Babu 402-218-6702,
Sundar 402-315-0818, Joe 402-682-2724

Deadline for registration: April 12th, 2014

Registration: <http://indiaassociationofnebraska.org/ianspellingbee2014.aspx>

INDIA ASSOCIATION OF NEBRASKA AND NSF WISHES ALL THE KIDS GOOD LUCK AND CONGRATULATES THE FOLLOWING WINNERS WHO WENT TO THE NSF NATIONAL CONTESTS (FINALS) FROM NEBRASKA LAST YEAR: DEEKSHA SRIDHER, ESWAR RAMAMURTHY, SANKAR RAMAMURTHY, SRISAI TURANGI, ABHINAV BETTADAPURA, ESHAAN GIRI AND VIJAY MENON

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