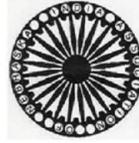


SANDESH

January 2014
Volume 1 Issue 1



India Association of Nebraska

12531 Shamrock Road
Omaha NE 68154

Happy New Year!!!

This is our first edition of Sandesh (the e-newsletter for IAN) for 2014. Please welcome the new IAN committee, headed by President Mr. Joseph Selvaraj. The members of the committee are listed in the Appendix and more information about IAN's primary functions is listed at <http://www.indiaassociationofnebraska.org>.

The first Executive Committee (EC) meeting was held on 1/13/14 at the Hindu temple. The meeting was well attended and various agenda items were discussed. The committee will continue to meet every third Sunday of the month.

President's Message:

Dear Friends,

Namaskar, I am extremely honored to have been elected as the President of the India Association of Nebraska for 2014. I am proud to be a part of an excellent committee that is eagerly working on the activities for the upcoming year. The recently concluded 65th Republic day celebrations was well received and has received much positive feedback.

This year we will be reviving the e-newsletter Sandesh. The main focus of the newsletter will be to highlight one IAN activity each month and to shine the spotlight on the diversity of India through our state and festival series. Effective communication is paramount to the success and expansion of our organization and I believe the newsletter will help with this. We will rely heavily on social media and other electronic modes to disseminate information to the community in an efficient and effective manner.

The support and overwhelming response received from everyone as we step into office promises a wonderful year ahead. I would like to thank all the members and volunteers for their hard work, time and support. You are what make IAN what it is today. I am also thankful to ex-committee members who continue to provide support to improve IAN.

Please participate actively in all the events, which will make them a grand success. Please do contact us at <http://www.indiassociationofnebraska.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,
Joseph Selvaraj
President, India Association of Nebraska

Highlights:

Republic Day: 1/26/2014

The 65th Republic day was celebrated with cultural programs showcasing both the classical and non-classical arts of India. Congressman Lee Terry was the Chief Guest and Dr. Shailendra Saxena was honored for his contributions to IAN and our community. Mrs. Deepa Kashyap organized a food stall and part of the generated revenue was contributed to IAN.

A Bollywood/Patriotic/Folk solo singing competition was held earlier that afternoon. The winners in the three categories were

Junior – Anusha Deshpande (1st), Ishan Giri (2nd) and Srikirthi Vellichetty (3rd).
Honorable mention – Srilasya Nedunoori

Senior – Anjali Reddy Nooka (1st), Esha Kishore (2nd)

Adult – Kasturi Banerjee (1st), Shanti Brunda (2nd) and Radhakrishna Vootla (3rd).
Honorable mention – Giri Ardhakur



Please check out the event gallery for more pictures of the celebration.

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

Spotlight:

ANDHRA PRADESH:

Andhra Pradesh or AP is situated on the southeast coast of India. It is the fourth largest state by area and fifth largest by population. It has the longest coastline of any Indian state and has two major rivers – Krishna and Godavari run across the state. AP is bordered by Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Orissa to the north, the Bay of Bengal to the east, Tamil Nadu on the south and Karnataka on the west.

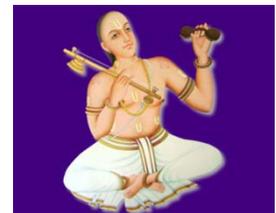


Hyderabad is its largest city and capital. Other prominent cities include Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Guntur, Rajahmundry, Warangal, Tirupati and Nellore. Telugu is the primary official language and Urdu is the co-official language. The climate is varied depending on the geographical location of the city. Agriculture is the chief source of income.



Many festivals are celebrated here like Ugadi (New Year), Sankranti (harvest festival), Vinayak Chavithi, Deepavali, Batukamma (celebrated by women during Navarathri), Eid, and Christmas.

Kuchipudi is the state's best-known classical dance form. Kolattam (dandiya), Lambadi (gypsy dance) and Chindu are a few of the other folk dances. Annamacharya, Tyagaraja and Bhadrachala Ramdas are some noted Carnatic music composers of Telugu descent.



Prominent places to visit in AP include Tirumala devasthanam, the most visited holy place in the world, the beaches of Vishakhapatnam, Charminar in Hyderabad, the Borra Caves near Vishakhapatnam and the Thousand-pillar temple in Hanamaconda.

Andhra Pradesh has one of the spiciest foods in India. Popular among them are Hyderabad biryani, Pesarattu (crepe), and pickles like Aavakaaya (mango pickle) and Gongura (a chutney made from leaves of the Roselle plant). Sweets like Bobbattu (Puran poli), Ariselu and Potharekulu (paper sweet) are also 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	8/30/2014	Hindu Temple Social Hall	TBD
Flu Shot day	TBD	Bal Vihar classrooms	TBD
Rhythms of India	TBD	TBD	TBD

NSF registration is now open for 2014. Please follow the link shown to login and register.
<http://www.indiaassociationofnebraska.org/ianspellingbee2014.aspx>

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 the joint venture of Mrs. Malathi Balu and Mrs. Smitha Amar.

Appendix A: 2014 Committee

President	Mr. Joseph Selvaraj
President Elect	Mr. Srinivas 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		
Community Service	Dr. Alekha Das	Mr. Srinivasarao Mallipudi	
Cultural	Mrs. Swati Ponnappalli	Mr. Gowridhar Madu	Mr. Arun Prasad
Education	Dr. Babu Guda	Mr. Tirumal Chengalasetty	Mr. Shankar Kuppa Mr. Sridher Swaminathan
Emergency Response	Mr. Sunil Singh	Mr. Muralidhar Chintapalli	Mr. Ravi Kumar Mr. Rony Kappuzha Mr. Shivashankar Yadav Mrs. Swarna Gopi
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 Mrs. 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