



This is our fifth edition of Sandesh (the e-newsletter for IAN) for 2014. The first quarter of 2014 has been eventful. The 5th Executive Committee (EC) meeting was held on May 18th at the Hindu temple. Main topic was the ACT and SAT mock sessions to students through IAN. Finance Committee presented the status to the executive committee. Discussions happened around sports day for Summer.

## Public Relations Chairperson's Message:

Good Day Everyone,

The Indian association of Nebraska has been active in several endeavors inside Nebraska as well in our mother land India. India has a diverse talented population of about 1.2 billion but 1 in 3 blind people in the world live in India. Since loss of vision is a huge problem in India, a small act of kindness of IAN through the Blind foundation for India has assisted to buy a van which enables conducting eye care screening clinics and outreach in remote places. This foundation is located in Illinois and has achieved the following:

1. Bought 104 vans for eye care screening clinics
2. Conducted 100,000 cataract surgeries
3. Vision screening and treatment for more than million people
4. Child site project evaluating about 450,000 kids providing screening, glasses and treatment.
5. 10,000 blind children have received Braille and mathematical kits.

Childhood education if impaired can lead to significant deterioration in growth and development of the community. This can lead to child labor as well as poverty and financial dependence. IAN donates 500\$ annually to an organization named Nanhi Kali to enable provision of quality education to economically disadvantaged girls in India for 10 years.

Let us continue our community support for noble causes through IAN and provide vision for the blind and a future for those kids.

Best regards,  
DR. Meera Varman  
Chair, Public Relations, India Association of Nebraska

## Highlights:

### **EVENT: Health Fair**

The IAN in association with One World of Omaha was able to provide free health screening tests including blood sugar, Cholesterol on 5/10/2014. Many visiting parents with no insurance and also community members with under insurance benefited from this event. Health fair was well attended by 63 members.

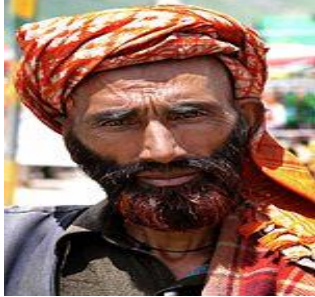
## Spotlight:

### **STATE: Jammu And Kashmir**

Jammu and Kashmir is located mostly in the Himalayan mountains and shares a border with the states of Himachal Pradesh and Punjab to the south. Jammu and Kashmir has an international border with China in the north and east, whereas the Line of Control separates it from Pakistani-controlled territories of Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan in the west and northwest.



Jammu and Kashmir consists of three regions: Jammu, the Kashmir valley and Ladakh. Srinagar is the summer capital, and Jammu is the winter capital. Although the Kashmir valley is famous for its beautiful mountainous landscape, Jammu's numerous shrines attract tens of thousands of Hindu pilgrims every year. Ladakh, also known as "Little Tibet", is renowned for its remote mountain beauty and Buddhist culture.



Ladakh is famous for its unique Indo-Tibetan culture. Chanting in Sanskrit and Tibetan language forms an integral part of Ladakh's Buddhist lifestyle. Annual masked dance festivals, weaving and archery are an important part of traditional life in Ladakh. Ladakhi food has much in common with Tibetan food, the most prominent foods being thukpa, noodle soup; and tsampa, known in Ladakhi as Ngampe, roasted barley flour. Typical garb includes gonchas of velvet, elaborately embroidered waistcoats and boots, and gonads or hats. People adorned with gold and silver ornaments and turquoise headgears throng the streets during Ladakhi festivals



The holy shrines of Jammu and the Buddhist monasteries of Ladakh continue to remain popular pilgrimage and tourism destinations. Every year, thousands of Hindu pilgrims visit holy shrines of Vaishno Devi and Amarnath, which has had significant impact on the state's economy.[93] It was estimated in 2007 that the Vaishno Devi yatra contributed ₹ 4.75 billion to the local economy annually a few years ago

Jammu and Kashmir is the only state in India which enjoys special autonomy under Article 370 of the Constitution of India, according to which no law enacted by the Parliament of India, except for those in the field of defence, communication and foreign policy, will be extendable in Jammu and Kashmir unless it is ratified by the state legislature of Jammu and Kashmir. Subsequently, jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of India over Jammu and Kashmir has been extended.[64]



Jammu and Kashmir is the only Indian state that has its own official flag and constitution, and Indians from other states cannot purchase land or property in the state.[65] and Ladakh.[66]

## IAN's Event Calendar for 2014

Event	Date	Location	Time
<b>Solo Singing Competitions</b>	<b>1/26/2014</b>	<b>Hindu Temple Social Hall</b>	<b>2.30 pm to 4:30 pm</b>
65 <sup>th</sup> 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 mock tests	Jun – Jul	Hindu Temple Social Hall	TBD
Odissi Performance	07/26/2014	Hindu Temple Social Hall	TBD
Sports Day	Jul	Multiple locations	TBD
Solo dance competitions	Aug	Hindu Temple Social Hall	TBD
68 <sup>th</sup> 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

### 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](mailto:info@indiaassociationofnebraska.org)

If you are interested in contributing articles or have suggestions for Sandesh please email us at [publications@indiaassociationofnebraska.org](mailto:publications@indiaassociationofnebraska.org)

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

## THANK YOU

Articles gathered and edited by Mrs. Smitha Amar and Mrs. Malathi Balu

and

*India Association Of Nebraska*

## 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

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