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# Samaj Patra

Fall 2004 Edition  
Editor: Tej Dhakar  
Associate Editor:  
Aparajita Manchanda

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### Summer at IANH

Prithvi Kumar, President

Warm Greetings!

Our association normally organizes the picnic in August for our members to socialize. But, the summer of 2004 is the one that will be remembered for a long time. Besides the picnic, we organized a town hall meeting on September 26<sup>th</sup> to inform the Indian-American voters on important issues that impact us. Representatives from various political campaigns discussed their plans to address these issues. This was the first of its kind organized by any Indian-American organization in New Hampshire. I express my sincere thanks to the Indian American Forum for Political Education for sending Dr. Ravi Sakhuja to address the audience. We hope to attract more audience next time. The Friends of India organization applauded our effort to organize a non-partisan community meeting.

On August 7, we held our annual picnic, which attracted many. There were social events and everyone enjoyed the warmth of summer under the cool shades of Wasserman Park.

On August 15, we reorganized our Executive Committee following the resignation of our treasurer Sudhakar Tadeballi. Dr. Tej Dhakar has accepted to be our Secretary and Prasad Kalyanapu has accepted Treasurer's position. I thank Sudhakar for his contributions as a treasurer. Starting this year, our Executive committee approved advertisements in Samaj Patra, web site and Banner Advertisements. We sent Email to our members regarding the new advertisement package. These packages are designed to help businesses to get publicity throughout the year.

We are making plans to organize the Diwali function on November 13<sup>th</sup> at Merrimack High School. This year we rented an auditorium to stage the entertainment while the gymnasium will be used for vendor area and dinner. I look forward to seeing you at the function. Best regards.

## BUSINESS CARDS

Traders in Fine Exotic Food, Spices & More  
Ravi Singh  
(603) 888 5552

### Global Flavors

7 Harold Drive, Suite 6, Nashua NH 03060  
(Behind Bernie & Phyl's and Longhorn  
Steakhouse)

Under New Management  
Alka Sharma & Deepika Nayyar  
(603) 595-6400

### Palika Bazaar

427 Amherst Street  
Nashua, NH 03063  
Hours: Mon-Sat 11 AM – 8 PM, Sun 12 – 7 PM

## PRESS COVERAGE

**IANH Featured on the Front Page of Nashua  
Telegraph dated Monday October 18, 2004**

**See story on the last page of this Samaj Patra**

Stacy Milbouer, Reporter for Nashua Telegraph met with the representatives of India Association of New Hampshire on Friday October 16, 2004. The result was a story on India Association of New Hampshire and the New

Hampshire Indian American community, which can be seen on the last page of the Samaj Patra. We would like to thank Manoj Chourasia for arranging this meeting.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Diwali, Festival of Lights on Saturday November 13, 2004 from 4:30 PM to 11 PM. Please see the flyer attached to the Samaj Patra for additional details.
- Education Bee (Spelling, Vocabulary and Math) in March 2005.
- Spring Festival in April/May 2005.
- Annual Picnic in August 2005.
- Monthly food donation pick up for Homeless Shelters in Manchester and Nashua are scheduled for November 20, December 11, January 8, February 12, March 12, April 9, and May 14. Please see details in the Public Service Corner.

Please visit the IANH website [www.ianh.org](http://www.ianh.org) for details on these and other activities.

## RECENT EVENTS

### **New Hampshire Politicians Address Indian American Community at Town Hall meeting**

Londonderry, NH, (September 26, 2004)—India Association of New Hampshire (IANH), with about 500 members spread over 25 towns across New Hampshire, organized a Town Hall meeting in Londonderry today to discuss federal, state and local issues affecting the Indian American community. According to the 2000 census, six thousand Indian-Americans live in New Hampshire, mainly in the Southern tier of the state and the Sea Cost area. There are 1.7 million Indian-Americans living in the United States.

The Association invited representatives from the Republican and Democratic campaigns for President, NH Governor, US Senate and US House of Representatives. Mr. Prithvi Kumar, President of the Association welcomed the guests and highlighted the community service and educational activities that the Association is actively involved with. Ravi Sakhuja, former chair of Massachusetts chapter of Indian American Forum for Political Education pointed out the civil rights violations including arbitrary and secret extended detentions under the Patriot Act as one of the major issues affecting the Muslims and other minorities in the USA. Himanshu Desai, Chair of Public Relations for IANH spoke about the discriminatory treatment by the NH Division of Motor Vehicles towards the immigrant community. He said that his employee had to take a day off to go to Concord to apply for driver's license because she was a non-citizen.

Paul Hodes, democratic candidate for US House of Representatives (district 2) addressed the audience on various national issues facing the country today such as the health care crisis, federal deficit, educational crisis, national security and the environment. He said that the Patriot Act had

seriously undermined the civil liberties of the United States citizens. He said that he supports Senator Kerry's plan to provide the same level of health insurance to all Americans that the members of the US congress enjoy. When questioned by a member in the audience about joining the India caucus if elected, his answer was, "absolutely, yes". Eric Anderson from the Charlie Bass (Republican candidate for US House of Representatives district 2) campaign took questions from the audience on Patriot Act, joining India caucus and other issues, which he promised to have his campaign respond to.

Joe Foster, New Hampshire senator from Nashua and Nishit Acharya spoke for the Kerry/Edwards campaign. Senator Foster spoke about the inadequate federal funding for the "No Child Left Behind" program leaving the states to bear most of the burden. He said that Kerry administration would provide full federal funding for this program. Nishit pointed out that the Bush administration had reduced funding for the Small Business Administration (SBA), which was hurting many small business owners of the Indian American community. He also said that Bush administration had reduced developmental aid to South Asian countries. He assured that the Kerry administration would restore funding to SBA and developmental aid to the South Asian countries to their original levels.

Republican US Senator John Sununu, though not a candidate this year, sent a message lauding the efforts of India Association and shared the following principles: A belief that government that governs the least, governs best; that low taxes are essential to individual prosperity and economic productivity; that we have an obligation to protect the rights of the youngest, oldest and most vulnerable members of the society; and that no individual should be judged or treated preferentially on the basis of race or ethnicity.

Dennis Burke, political director for the Granny D campaign said that they have been inspired by the non-violence practiced by Mahatma Gandhi and believe that it is a very important means to achieving world peace.

NH Representative Raymond Buckley pointed out the abuses of power by the Benson administration and said it was the prime reason he decided to give up his position as a state representative and be a candidate for the Executive Council. He said that the legislators like to hear from their constituents and that people should not shy away from contacting their legislators about issues important to them.

Derek Mitchell, who has spent considerable time in India as a Fulbright scholar, represented the Lynch for Governor campaign. He started off with the Indian greeting, "Namaste", and spoke about the harm the SB 110 bill on insurance has done to the NH residents without achieving much in return.

Siddharth Das, the first Indian-American candidate for NH House of Representatives spoke about the need to resolve the educational funding crisis and create more jobs in New Hampshire. Ambassador George Bruno complemented the Association for its community service and political education

activities and emphasized the importance of registering as a voter and voting in the elections. Mini Timmaraju, Executive Director of the Senate Democratic Caucus, setting aside her political affiliation, moderated the Town Hall meeting very ably. All in all, it was a memorable event for the Indian-American community living in New Hampshire.

## RECENT EVENTS

### IANH Organizes Picnic to Celebrate Indian Independence Day

IANH hosted its annual picnic on August 7, 2004 at the Wasserman Park in Merrimack, NH. It was a well-attended event with the presence of over fifty IANH members and their families. The cool breeze from the lake was quite refreshing on a warm afternoon and the lake provided a picturesque sight for the picnic. There was a potluck lunch wherein most of the families had brought in mouth watering home cooked food. Following lunch, all attendees were introduced to each other at the gathering. Prithvi Kumar, IANH President introduced IANH and its activities to the audience. Himanshu Desai, Chair Public Relations Committee stressed on the need for the community to unite behind an organization in order to make the Lawmakers pay attention to our community's needs. Sid Das, an IANH member spoke about his candidacy for NH State House of Representatives to represent Pelham District. The picnic provided an opportunity for everyone to meet and interact with each other in an informal manner. There were games for members and their children. New members got acquainted with existing members and by late afternoon people started leaving for their homes with a happy note as a day well spent.

## MEMBER PROFILE

### Padma Mathur, Founder Member of India Association of New Hampshire

**We first present to you Padma's biographical sketch in her own words:** I was born in Mysore City, South India. I am the oldest of 6 children of my parents. I was educated in Mysore and got my medical degree (MBBS) in 1955 from University Medical College, University of Mysore. After my internship and two years of teaching at the Medical College, I left India to further my training in general surgery.

I met my husband Suresh Mathur on my way to England. He was traveling from India at the same time, to do Ph.D. in Physics at University of Texas in Austin. After 4 years of training in England in general surgery, I completed my qualifying examination at the Royal College of surgeons of Edinburgh, UK, and was elected as Fellow of the Royal

College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, UK (FRCS). This is similar to Board certification in America.



I left England and came to America in 1962 and did a year of residency training in surgery at Worcester City Hospital, Worcester, MA. Suresh and I met again and got married in 1963. I moved to Texas and did some more training in thoracic and general surgery. My daughter Anu Radha was born in Texas on 23rd of December, 1966. Suresh finished his Ph.D. and was working for Texas Nuclear Corporation. We remained in Texas until I finished my year of residency training and we moved to Massachusetts where Suresh accepted the professorship in the Physics department at U.Mass, Lowell.

After realizing the difficulty in pursuing my surgical career, I changed to Pathology practice after training once again for four years. This gave me regularly scheduled hours of work, which was compatible with raising my daughter. After the residency and Board certification, I accepted the position as Chief (Director) of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Veterans Administration Medical Center in Manchester, NH, in 1972. I served in that position for 27 years and retired in 1998.

My daughter is a practicing lawyer in Manchester, NH. She is married to John F. Mullikin from New Hampshire and has a 7 year old daughter Katelyn Radha and a 4 year old son John Suresh. We have been devoting our time and energy in taking care of our two grand children, which we find very fulfilling.

My involvement in organizing Diwali function began in 1986. Our first function was held at the St. Joseph's School in Manchester. I had tremendous cooperation and involvement of most of the Indian community of Manchester and large number of people including students from the seacoast area and other parts of New Hampshire attended the function. Food was prepared and donated by the volunteers.

Later in 1988, Shail Kumar and her husband Dr. Raj Kumar invited all the people who were interested in formally organizing an Association of Indians. After the meeting Mrs. Shail Kumar took the initiative and got all the paper work and signatures of 5 members as founders (Mrs. Shail Kumar, Rita Chopra, Padma Mathur, Prithvi Kumar and Dr. Bijoy Kundu) of the Association and sent it to the State. We were approved to form an organization to promote Asian Indian culture.

Our first initiation meeting took place at Dr. Walter Lima's residence. After forming the Association we had to formalize with the State and obtain official certification. Suresh Mathur had been involved from the beginning and wrote the bylaws and a governing body structure and functions and submitted to the State for their approval and acceptance. We received the certificate of approval and registration from the State in 1989.

We had our first formal elections in 1989 and Suresh assumed the function of the chairman of the Board. Since then he worked and got tax-exempt status from IRS, for the Association. I was always actively involved in various positions as president, vice-president, member of the Board and secretary to the Board, cultural secretary and finally as secretary of public service. My only goal all along was to keep this organization viable and thriving. Now I am away from the administration side of the Association but remain active member of the public service committee and also involved in helping in the functions of the Association.

**Prithvi Kumar, President of the Association writes the following about Padma:** Dr. Padma Mathur, affectionately called "Padma" has been the backbone for our association. Padma has been with us from day one when the first meeting was held in March 1989. Padma led the cultural committee and brought several cultural programs to entertain our members. In the earlier days when a home cooked meal was served at Diwali function, Padma coordinated the menu with each family. She served as President from 1991-92 and later from 1996 to 1998. She then served as the Vice President from 2000-02, when she decided to relinquish her executive responsibility.

Padma will be remembered for her efforts in keeping us together at all times. IANH activated Public Service activities in 2000. Padma was the first to jump in to help organize entertainment program at the Goffstown Nursing Home, collect funds for Angie's shelter, and collect bed linen and blankets for the shelter. She has been an active member in our Public Service and Hospitality group. Padma retired from the Executive committee last April. But, she has not retired from her active participation in our Public Service group and is helping us with Public Service projects or with our hospitality service. Padma, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all the valuable contributions. We need many more "Padmas" in our organization.

**Barinder, Chair of the Public Service Committee writes the following about Padma:** The executive committee members would like to thank Dr. Padma Mathur and Dr. Suresh Mathur for their time and commitment to the India Association. They are amongst the few founders of this association. The association's growth is accredited to their hard work. Dr. Padma Mathur headed the Public Service committee until a few years ago. Public Service committee is helping bring Indian culture and values to the mainstream in America. Dr. Mathur has decided to step down from the executive committee position to spend more time with her family. She is still part of the Public Service committee. Dr. Padma Mathur and Dr. Suresh Mathur's combined experience and hard work is invaluable to the association. We all would like to thank them for their time and dedication to the cause.

## CULTURAL CORNER

### Join us at the Diwali Festival

#### Deepa Mangalat, Chair, Cultural Committee

IANH 2004 Diwali Festival is on November 13, 2004. We have put together a very entertaining cultural program, an authentic Indian dinner and Dandiya after the dinner. The dinner is catered by Gurnam Catering Service and Ravi Singh will be the DJ for the Dandiya. The festivities begin at 4:30 PM, followed by dinner around 7:30 PM and Dandiya from 9 to 11 PM. Please see the flyer attached to the Samaj Patra for ticket information and directions. Do send us your check today and avail of the discount for advance ticket purchase (until November 10). On the day of the festival the tickets will be sold on a first-come-first-served basis depending on availability (as the dinner is catered).

If you have any questions or would like to help us in organizing the Diwali festival, please contact Deepa Mangalat, Chair, Cultural Committee at [dmangalat@comcast.net](mailto:dmangalat@comcast.net). We look forward to seeing you at the Diwali Festival.

## EDUCATION CORNER

### IANH Congratulates the Winners of National Education Bee Contest

#### Karthi Chandra, Chair, Education Committee

Congratulations to Lasya Thilagar on her achieving the sixth place in the Math Bee level 2 competition and to Anish Thilagar who came ninth in the Math bee level 1 competition in the North South Foundation National finals held at Phoenix, Arizona, during September 4-5, 2004.

The 2004 Regional Education Bee organized by IANH in March 2004 was a grand success with about 129 registrations and 92 participants taking part in several contests. The regional winners went on to participate in

the National Education Bee organized by the North South Bee held in Phoenix, Arizona during September 4-5, 2004.

### **Education Bees Early Next Year Karthi Chandra, Chair, Education Committee**

Education Bees, which last year included Spelling Bee, Vocabulary Bee and Math Bee are just round the corner and would tentatively be held in March 2005. Ask your children to start getting ready for those. Watch out for more information as we get near the event.

If you have any questions or would like to help us in organizing the Education Bees, please contact Karthi Chandra, Chair, Education Committee at [Karthi1@adelphia.net](mailto:Karthi1@adelphia.net).

## **POLITICAL CORNER**

### **You can still register and vote**

New Hampshire residents who will be 18 years of age or older on election day, and a United States Citizen, can register on Election Day at the polling place. There is no minimum period of time you are required to have lived in the state before being allowed to register. You may register as soon as you move into your new community.

When registering to vote, you will not be required to register as a member of a political party (Republican or Democratic) -- you may register as an undeclared voter. You will be asked to show proof of age, citizenship, and domicile. **You should take as many of the following documents with you as you may have: driver's license, naturalization certificate, passport and birth certificate.**

For more information, visit NH State Elections Division: <http://www.sos.nh.gov/electionsnew.htm>

## **PUBLIC SERVICE CORNER**

### **Monthly Food Donation to Homeless Shelters Barinder Ahluwalia, Chair, Public Service Committee**

Monthly food donation pick up for Homeless Shelters in Manchester and Nashua are scheduled for November 20, December 11, January 8, February 12, March 12, April 9, and May 14.

Our food distribution program has been running for three years. All are invited to participate in the food drive. We have convenient locations in your neighborhood for you to drop off the food items. You can donate any of the following wish list of items requested by Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry:

**Soup Kitchen**

**Food Pantry**

Margarine	Peanut Butter
Coffee	Saltines
#10 Can Green Beans	Instant Potatoes
#10 Can Peas	Pasta
#10 Can Carrots	Cereals
#10 Can Corn	Spaghetti Sauce
Cheese Sandwiches	Tuna
Peanut Butter Sandwiches	Sugar
Fruits	Macaroni & Cheese
	Beans

If you live in Bedford, please drop it off at Prithvi Kumar's residence at 60 Hitching Post Lane (please drop off at the rear door after 5:00 PM). For questions, please call Prithvi at 472-5835.

For those who live in Manchester, please drop it off at Tej Dhakar's residence at 20 Chad Road, Manchester. Please call them at 668-9028 and work out the time.

Nashua residents please drop it off at Vijay Batra's residence at 5 Carriage Lane, Nashua. Please work out with Vijay by calling him at 880-5451.

If you have any questions, please call the respective individual in your area. Thanks for your participation.

You can also support our Public Service activities by making tax-deductible contributions and volunteer service. Please send your contributions to IANH-Public Service fund, P.O. Box 3132, Manchester NH 03105.

If you have any questions or would like to help us in organizing public service activities, please contact Barinder Ahluwalia at [Barinder@aol.com](mailto:Barinder@aol.com)

## **MEMBERSHIP CORNER**

### **IANH Welcomes New Members**

#### **Vandana Dhakar**

We would also like to welcome the following new members who recently joined the Association.

- **Mohammed Rahman & Parveen Sultana, Milford, NH**
- **Raghu & Nalinik Dokula, Nashua, NH**
- **Murali & Venkata Kuppa, Plainfield, NH**
- **Audhesh & Bimlesh Chandra, Merrimack, NH**
- **Philip & Lata Laurens, Nashua, NH**
- **Manoj & Unnti Chourasia, Nashua, NH**
- **Vinod & Nayana Hariya, Nashua, NH**
- **Amit & Gunjan Kuthiala, Manchester, NH**
- **Sitaram & Sridevi Alla, Manchester, NH**

## How to become a member / renew your membership

If you are not a member, we invite you to join the India Association. If you are a member and have not renewed your membership for 2004, we request you to renew your membership today. You can access the membership/renewal form at [www.ianh.org](http://www.ianh.org). As a member you receive the Association newsletter - Samaj Patra, discounts at various events organized by IANH, and news about various activities and events organized by the Association as well as other non-profit organizations in the area.

If you have any questions or would like to help in organizing various membership activities, please contact Vandana Dhakar, Chair, Membership Committee at [dhakar@comcast.net](mailto:dhakar@comcast.net)

## WWW.IANH.ORG

### Help us keep the IANH Web Site current

**Karthi Chandra, Web Master**

IANH web site has a new look and we need your help to keep it new always. We would like to post all events in the Greater Boston area on our web site. Please let us know of all religious, political, sporting, and cultural events of interest. Also include the point of contact and other relevant information. This information will also be used to plan our functions around. You may send it to Karthi Chandra at the following email address: [webmaster@ianh.org](mailto:webmaster@ianh.org).

## PUBLICITIY/ MARKETING/ ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

### Advertise in the Diwali Function Guide

Diwali Festival to be held on November 13, 2004 is expected to attract a large crowd. The last year's festival was attended by about 250 people. People leaf through the Function Guide in between items during the festival and many of them take the Guide home with them. Please advertise in Diwali Function and publicize your message.

Full Page Ad (7"x 4" or 4"x7"): \$75  
Half Page Ad (height 3.5"x width 4"): \$40  
Business card: \$20

Members receive 10 percent discount. Please mail/email your advertisement and your check to Vandana Dhakar, 20 Chad Road, Manchester, NH 03104. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Vandana Dhakar [dhakar@comcast.net](mailto:dhakar@comcast.net).

### Advertise in the Samaj Patra, Newsletter of the India Association

Samaj Patra reaches over 200 families through direct and electronic mailing. Please advertise in Samaj Patra and publicize your message.

Full Page Ad (9"x7" or 7"x 9"): \$75  
Half Page Ad (height 4"x width 7"): \$40  
Business card: \$20

Members receive 10 percent discount. Please mail/email your advertisement and your check to Vandana Dhakar, 20 Chad Road, Manchester, NH 03104. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Vandana Dhakar [dhakar@comcast.net](mailto:dhakar@comcast.net).

## Become an IANH Sponsor and Save 20% on All Publicity/Marketing/Advertising through IANH

**Prithvi Kumar, President**

Diwali is around the corner and we are getting ready with our plans to offer the best on November 13th. In the past IANH offered a limited advertisement for our businesses. With large attendance at IANH functions, we have decided to offer advertisements throughout the year.

Starting this year, we have extended the advertisements to Newsletters and Web site to include you own home page or links to your business sites. These advertisements will publicize your products and services in our community. Our web site, where a number of our community members get valuable information, will offer good publicity for your products and services. There were a number of satisfied customers who sold their products and services at our events last year.

The following is a summary of events scheduled for 2004-05 and past data:

Function	Date	Location	Attendance (2003-04)	Vendors (2003-04)	Advertisers (2003-04)
Diwali	November 13 2004	Merrimack High School	250	7	7
Education Contest	March 26 2005	TBD	200	--	13
Spring Festival	April 30 2005	TBD	350	7	--

Starting this year, we also plan to introduce sponsorship packages for corporations and businesses, which will get repeated publicity through multiple exposures at a discounted rate. We offer the following sponsorship programs:

- Platinum and Gold sponsorships are available for businesses who will be interested to display and sell their products and services as well as advertise in our newsletters, Diwali function guide, and the web site.

- Silver and Bronze sponsorships are available for those businesses and corporations who will prefer to advertise in the Newsletter, Diwali function guide and the web site advertisement, and Email circulation
- Non-profit sponsorship.

A copy of the rate table that lists various sponsorship programs is given on the next page. These packages can also be tailored to suit your business needs.

We offer a substantial savings of 20 percent over individual costs as well as additional discounts to our members, whether you choose the standard sponsorship package or create your own. We request you to sponsor our events and include IANH sponsorship in your corporate budget.

## IANH MANAGEMENT TEAM

**Prithvi Kumar**  
President  
[prithvi@ianh.org](mailto:prithvi@ianh.org)

**Antony Epaphras**  
Vice-President  
[tepaphras@snhs.org](mailto:tepaphras@snhs.org)

**Tej Dhakar**  
Secretary  
[Dhakar@comcast.net](mailto:Dhakar@comcast.net)

**Prasad Kalyanapu**  
Treasurer  
[prasadkvn@comcast.net](mailto:prasadkvn@comcast.net)

**Deepa Mangalat**  
Chair, Cultural Committee  
[dmangalat@adelphia.net](mailto:dmangalat@adelphia.net)

**Barinder Ahluwalia**  
Chair, Public Service Committee  
[Barinder@aol.com](mailto:Barinder@aol.com)

**Karthi Chandra**  
Chair, Education Committee & Web Master  
[webmaster@ianh.org](mailto:webmaster@ianh.org)

**Vandana Dhakar**  
Chair, Membership Committee  
[dhakar@comcast.net](mailto:dhakar@comcast.net)

**Himanshu Desai**  
Chair, Public Relations  
[dickydesai@comcast.net](mailto:dickydesai@comcast.net)

IANH Rate Table  
2004-05

Sponsor Category	Table rent Diwali <sup>\$\$</sup>		Table rent Spring Festival <sup>\$\$</sup>		Advertisement in Function Guide and Newsletter			Banner Display	Web site advertisement		Total Cost		Sponsorship discounted cost		Savings
	Member \$50	Non Member \$65	Member Cost \$50	Non Member Cost \$65	Full Page \$270	Half Page \$145	Business Card \$70	\$120	Sponsor Page \$100	Sponsor Website link \$50	Member	Non Member	Member	Non Member	
Platinum	X	X	X	X	X			X	X		\$ 590.00	\$ 620.00	\$ 475.00	\$ 495.00	20%
Gold	X	X	X	X		X				X	\$ 295.00	\$ 325.00	\$ 235.00	\$ 260.00	20%
Silver					X			X	X		\$ 465.00	\$ 490.00	\$ 375.00	\$ 400.00	20%
Bronze-1						X		X		X	\$ 290.00	\$ 315.00	\$ 230.00	\$ 255.00	20%
Bronze-2							X	X	X		\$ 265.00	\$ 290.00	\$ 210.00	\$ 235.00	20%
Bronze-3							X	X		X	\$ 215.00	\$ 240.00	\$ 175.00	\$ 200.00	20%
Non Profit-1					\$150						\$220.00		\$175.00		20%
Non Profit-2						\$80					\$150.00		\$120.00		20%
Non Profit-3		\$35		\$35			\$40				\$110.00		\$90.00		20%

X denotes applicable item

\$\$ Table rental include one standard 6'x3' table and one dinner or snack ticket. No food items are allowed to be sold at Diwali function

Normal one time rates for Diwali function guide: Full Page (5"x7") \$75, Half page (3.5"x4") \$40, Business Card (4"x2") \$25

Web site advertisement consists of sponsor home page hosted in IANH web site or links to sponsor webstes

20 percent discount plus member discount applies to any combination of three or more products

For customized package rates, please call Prithvi Kumar (603)-714-5707

### Treasurer's Report By Prasad Kalyanapu, Treasurer

Committee	Cash brought forward 9/1/2003	Contributions /Ticket Sales 9/1/2003-8/31/2004	Expense 9/1/2003-8/31/2004	Balance as of 9/1/2004
Public Service	\$611.77	\$848.02	\$800.25	\$659.54
Education	\$199.06	\$728.25	\$632.00	\$295.31
Cultural	\$192.95	\$4,560.00	\$3,353.92	\$1,399.03

### Overhead Data

Period	Membership Income	Other Income	Overhead Expense	Balance as of 9/1/2004
9/1/2003 – 8/31/2004	\$1,527	\$124.22	\$1,489.18	\$162.04

# The Telegraph



STACY MILBOUER

## Getting political in their new home

The India Association of New Hampshire has been around for 15 years. But it's just been within the past year that the organization, which now counts 500 New Hampshire residents among its membership, added politics to its agenda. And like any political movement large or small, controversy, concerns for civil rights, and a desire for a political voice that motivated the group to stretch in a political direction.

While the first major wave of immigration to the state from India began more than 30 years ago, it has boomed in the last decade. According to the latest U.S. Census, New Hampshire is now home to approximately 3,900 Indian Americans – the majority of which live in southern New Hampshire. That figure is nearly double of that gleaned from the previous census 10 years before. The influx of the Indian population to the state has been primarily because of hires by high-tech companies.

Prithvi Kumar of Bedford, president of IANH, was part of that original wave of immigration, when he moved to New Hampshire 34 years ago to work in high tech. At the time (the laws have since changed) he was able to become an American citizen in a short period of time because his work included a high security status.

Currently about 10 to 20 percent of the state's Indian American residents are citizens and are eligible to vote. But Kumar believes those numbers will soon grow. He feels most of the state's current Indian population will eventually become citizens when they are eligible to apply for naturalization.

Like the majority of Indians living in the state, Nashua resident Manoj Chourasia, an officer in the IANH, first arrived here with an H1-B (work) visa. That allows someone to come to this country and work for a specific company. Chourasia is a software engineer at Fidelity Investments. Like most other Indians living in the state for several years, he applied for and received a green card – or permanent resident status.

After five years, those who hold a green card have the option to apply for American citizenship.

"We find that most people who have lived here for more than eight years, and have families and jobs here do apply for citizenship," Kumar said. "So the time to become politically aware is now, not necessarily after you've become a citizen," he said.

The IANH members decided to become politically active last year, when the state Legislature passed a resolution (HCR 16) urging the United States to "facilitate a just, peaceful and rapid resolution to the Kashmiri conflict between India and Pakistan; to bring a cessation of atrocities against the people of Jammu and Kashmir and, as a result, to reduce the threat of nuclear war in Southwest Asia." State Rep. Robert Giuda, R-Warren, sponsored the bill, after he and another group of legislators, including Pakistani native Saghir Tahir, R-Manchester, visited Kashmir. Pakistan and India have a history of conflict, which has led to two wars over the past 40 years.

It wasn't the language of the resolution that alarmed some members of the IANH, said Kumar, but what he and other members of the IANH felt was a one-sided view of the situation overseas being presented to New Hampshire citizens in the local media.

"That's when we decided to speak out and be heard," he said.

Shortly after the resolution was passed last year, IANH Vice President Tony Epaphras of Manchester made the group's first political announcement when he said that while his community felt the resolution had a "noble intent" to "promote peace, avoid nuclear war and end atrocities in Kashmir," it also felt that the resolution was being used as a political tool by some members of the Legislature to promote personal political agendas.

Once the group made the decision to have what it considers a nonpartisan political voice, they took full advantage of living in the first-in-the-nation primary state during presidential campaign season. Kumar estimates that as far as personal political leanings, the IANH is split down the middle when it comes to the numbers of Democrats and Republicans.

Right before the February primary, the IANH sent out a questionnaire to all of the major presidential candidates. Five candidates responded to the numerous questions (including one on the Kashmir situation), all Democrats including now-Democratic nominee John Kerry (but not his running mate John Edwards).

In a press release reprinting the responses to their questions, the IANH, urged its membership, "if you like a particular candidate, contact his or her campaign and get involved."

The group is also finding other ways to keep its membership informed of political issues that affect them as India natives and as American citizens at large. "Samaj Patra," the quarterly IANH newsletter featured an article on Sid Das, a Pelham Democrat running for the District 27 House seat this November – the first Indian American candidate for the House. Last month, the group sponsored a town hall-style political forum, attended by representatives from some national, state and local campaigns.

Among the political issues raised at the forum was the protection of civil rights, especially in light of the Patriot Act.

Tej Dhakar, a professor of business at Southern New Hampshire University and secretary for the IANH, said this will be the first presidential election in which he will be eligible to vote. "I became a citizen in 2000, right after the last election," he said.

Dhakar said the IANH believes (like John Kerry) that for the most part the Patriot Act is a good thing for this country. "But with some changes," he said.

There is concern under the act, civil rights violations including "arbitrary and secret extended detentions might occur. Not just for Indian-Americans, but for Muslims from everywhere," according to IANH literature. The group is also concerned about deportation for misdemeanor crimes and abuse of power and racial profiling on the part of law enforcement.

Although political awareness and informed voting are of great importance to the IANH, Kumar wants to emphasize that the group is and always has been about becoming "good members of their New Hampshire communities."

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