

# Samaj Patra

**This Issue:** Annual Picnic  
Cool Web Sites, Diwali flyer,  
and much more.....

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## Message from the President

We started the year 1996-97 in an unconventional style. The conventional approach that we undertook so far has not motivated the membership to take part in the association activities and management. It has been always a small group of people carry the burden. Therefore it is time to try a new approach. Our emphasis will be to create activities for members who can participate at their convenience. We are in the era of information dissemination through Cyber Space and it is important to develop the necessary tools to efficiently manage association related information. With this in mind we have made significant progress towards creating the NHAAI Web page. The Web page is intended to serve as 'India House' where you can take part in the association activities, extract useful community related information, and obtain travel documents from the Consulate. You can access all these from your home and at your convenience. There will be a time when the membership dues will be collected through electronic media. The success of this project depends on your participation. Please contact Mr. Ashish Brahma and make your contribution.

In addition to the Web page, we launched an effort to collect used-computers to be donated to a shelter in Lawrence MA. These computers will be used to provide skills necessary for battered women to obtain employment. Please contact Mr. Ramgopal and enroll in the project.

The significant summer activities were the reception to host Mr. Harsh Bhasin, Consul General of India New York and the recently concluded picnic.

We are making arrangements for the Diwali function that is scheduled to be held on Saturday 2, November. I wish you all a happy Navaratri and Diwali.

Prithvi Kumar

## Association calendar of events

- 11.2.96 Diwali: See flyer
- 12.1.96 Last date to submit articles to Samaj Patra.

## NHAAI New Address

**We request you to address all your future correspondence to, NHAAI, P.O. Box 3132, Manchester NH 03105.**

## Annual Picnic:

The annual picnic was held in Pawtuckaway State Park on August 18, 1996. It was a bright and beautiful day, and Dr. Padma Mathur and the Khanas picked a gorgeous spot for the picnic. There was plenty of mouth watering food from all regions of India to go around. The children played softball and frisbee, and many of the participants rented canoes or paddle boats to try their boating skills on the Pawtuckaway Lake. After a sumptuous lunch, the participants sang the National Anthem of India to celebrate Independence Day, followed by the US National Anthem. Dr. Padma Mathur gave a moving speech about how India achieved her independence from the British. All in all it was a great day to relax, and it may be stated unequivocally that everyone who cooked a dish that day may be considered as God's gift to the gastric juices!!

## Humor

Contributed by Prithvi Kumar

The following is a direct quote from the Center for Strategic and International Studies report on GLOBAL ORGANIZED CRIME:

FBI agents conducted a raid of a psychiatric hospital in San Diego that was under investigation for medical insurance fraud. After hours of reviewing thousands of medical records, the dozens of agents had worked up quite an appetite. The agent in charge of the investigation called a nearby pizza parlor-with delivery service to order a quick dinner for his colleagues.

The following telephone conversation took place and was recorded by the FBI because they were taping all conversations at the hospital.

Agent: Hello. I would like to order 19 large pizzas and 67 cans of soda

Pizza Man: And where would you like them delivered?

Agent: We're over at the psychiatric hospital.

Pizza Man: The psychiatric hospital?

Agent: That's right. I'm an FBI agent.

Pizza Man: You're an FBI agent?

Agent: That's correct. Just about everybody here is.

Pizza Man: And you're at the psychiatric hospital?

Agent: That's correct. And make sure you don't go through the front doors. We have them locked. You will have to go around to the back to the serviceentrance to deliver the pizzas.

Pizza Man: And you say you're all FBI agents?

Agent: That's right. How soon can you have them here?

Pizza Man: And everyone at the psychiatric hospital is an FBI agent?

Agent: That's right. We've been here all day and we're starving.

Pizza Man: How are you going to pay for all of this?

Agent: I have my checkbook right here.

Pizza Man: And you're all FBI agents?

Agent: That's right. Everyone here is an FBI agent. Can you remember to bring the pizzas and sodas to the service entrance in the rear? We have the front-doors locked.

Pizza Man: I don't think so.

### ***News about Smart Cards***

Associated Press

Researchers find potential flaw in 'smart cards' NEW YORK -

The newfangled "smart cards" that some think will replace the cash in your wallet have a flaw that could enable technologically savvy criminals to counterfeit them, an expert says.

Computer scientists at Bellcore determined through theoretical research that the cards - a form of plastic money with a computer chip memory - are not tamper-proof, making them possible targets of piracy. "This is a significant discovery because it is a new attack on the system," said Bill Barr, executive director of information networking at Bellcore and a consultant to the study. The smart card industry needs "to learn how to respond to this kind of physical attack," he told The Associated Press late Wednesday. No smart-card counterfeiting has been discovered yet, but Barr said attempts at such crimes are inevitable unless the cards are redesigned. Bellcore, a research and development organization owned by the regional Bell operating companies, is now working with the industry to help prevent such problems and many manufacturers are already building defenses into their systems, Barr said. Companies developing smart cards dismissed the warning. "This is very speculative," Chris Jarman, vice president of chip card technology at Mastercard, told The New York Times. "I have yet to see a smart-card scheme with a vulnerability." Smart cards resemble bankauto-

mated teller cards and debit cards that consumers have grown accustomed to using. With a simple swipe through a special machine, they can substitute cash when buying everything from subway rides and snacks to clothing. The purchase price is electronically deducted from the amount the consumer has invested in the card. But the smart card takes the technology further, embedding a computer chip into the card, that gives it much more memory and enables it to do simple math and process information, like keeping a bank balance or tracking frequent flier miles. They are currently being tested in the United States. The huge potential scope of the smart card has prompted some concerns about the privacy rights of users. By tracking small purchases, telephone and transportation records, they can document a person's everyday movements.

### ***Some Cool Web Sites:***

For those of you who like to surf the net, and for other future net surfers, here are some cool web sites that have information on India and things Indian!

#### **News:**

[www.indiaserver.com/news/thehindu](http://www.indiaserver.com/news/thehindu)  
[express.indiaworld.com](http://express.indiaworld.com)  
[www.economicstimes.com](http://www.economicstimes.com)

#### **Radio:**

[tamil.math.utk.edu/cgi-bin/tamilnadu/](http://tamil.math.utk.edu/cgi-bin/tamilnadu/)

#### **Cuisine:**

[www.cba.uh.edu/~bala/tamilnadu/food.html](http://www.cba.uh.edu/~bala/tamilnadu/food.html)

#### **Consulate General**

[www.indiaserver.com/CGINYC](http://www.indiaserver.com/CGINYC)

#### **Colleges**

[www.cs.wisc.edu/~shubu/iitk/colleges.html](http://www.cs.wisc.edu/~shubu/iitk/colleges.html)

#### **Tours**

[www.exploreindia.com](http://www.exploreindia.com)  
[www.qq.com](http://www.qq.com)

#### **NHAAI Executive Committee:**

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Dr. Padma Mathur, Cultural Committee  
Mr. Ramgopal, Public Service  
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