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# Samaj Patra

Spring 2003

Edited by Seshu Putcha

## President's Corner

President's Message:

Dear fellow members,

Warm Greetings!

The start of the New Year brought a number of activities to our association; both planned and unplanned. On March 22, IANH held the NH Regional Spelling Bee Contest at the NH Community Technical College. Over forty children from grades one through seven participated in the spelling bee and vocabulary contests. Let me thank Kumon Center Nashua, Robotech Center Nashua, Kiwanis Club Hudson, Barnes & Noble Nashua, and Kumar Tutors for their sponsorship. Additionally, let me thank IANH members who pitched in to buy trophies. The diligent effort of IANH members to make it a success cannot be ignored.

In March 2003, IANH was tasked with a responsibility to respond to the allegations made by the NH legislators in their

House Resolution HCR 16. Although the intent of HCR 16 was aimed at bringing peace to the Kashmir region, the language used in the bill ignored the cross border terrorist activities by the Pakistan. Furthermore, some lawmakers along with the WNDS\_TV, Derry exploited the situation in the documentary on Kashmir. The India Consul General from NY met with us on March 23 and discussed the matter. He also stated that this is a local matter where the Indian diplomats cannot get involved. He also suggested that IANH should take the lead.

We formed an Action Committee consisting of members from IANH, AAINA, and Friends of India International to work on the letter to the NH legislators providing them with facts while pointing out the shortcomings of HCR 16. Furthermore, IANH held its News Conference on May 7 at the NH State House, Concord. Our Press Conference received well by Legislators who were convinced that it is not their business to act on a Resolution

with one-sided facts. There was also an Editorial appeared on the following day in the Manchester Union Leader that echoed our sentiment. Please visit our web site to get more details on this subject. Let me thank the volunteers of the Action Committee who worked several hours to prepare the letter and speech at the Press Conference. The team effort paid off.

On April 27, 2003 IANH held its Executive Committee meeting in which the Executive members approved the formation Public Relation Committee. This committee will handle public relation matters like the one we were involved with last month. The Executive committee also approved funds to support our campaign to HCR 16. As of this date, IANH spent one thousand dollars to mail letters to four hundred legislators. We are in the process of raising donations to cover the cost. I request you to donate whatever you can to support the cause.

IANH Public Service Committee as usual is the Crown Jewell of our

organization. Their efforts are well recognized by the NH public. The Public-Service group plans to host a cookout at the New Horizon soup kitchen on July 12. The group plans to serve lasagna and salad for over three hundred guests. I request you to help them through contributions or physical help.

I wish you happiness and peace,

Mohanram  
President

### Upcoming Events

- ✓ Spring Festival 2003 – June 1, 2003
- ✓ Shelter cookout July 12
- ✓ Annual Picnic Aug. 9

[www.ianh.org](http://www.ianh.org) has the latest info on all the activities that are being undertaken

### Community Service

Dr. Padma Mathur, Chair

The public service committee activity has been steadily gaining strength. Last year we donated 1100 dollars, proceeds from spring festival at the Saraswathi Mandir to Saraswathi Mandir. We collected 500 dollars and donated that to Angie's shelter, which is part of New Horizons of New Hampshire at Manchester for homeless women. We also collected new bed linen, pillows,

towels and blankets for the Angies shelter for their start up. We contributed 1000 dollars that was collected at our Diwali festival in October of 2002, to southern New Hampshire University for Jadvani Scholarship fund for Indian graduate student at the School. We are collecting donations of sandwiches, fruits and nonperishable foods to the Soup Kitchen 2nd Saturday of each month. This program is in its second year. We are also planning to prepare and serve food at the Shelter on July 12, 2003. We would like to increase food donation to the shelter and we are urging all our members to donate to this cause. We are also seeking volunteers to help us prepare food at the shelter. We also would like to solicit donation of grocery items we need on that day to cook for 300 guests at the shelter. If you are interested in participate please contact Padma Mathur or Vandana Dhakar or Prithvi Kumar. We need your participation and all your help to fulfill our goal towards this worthy cause.

### Officers of the Association

[Mr.Mohanram Ramlinkgam](#) - president  
[Mr.Shashank Dubey](#) – vice president

[Mrs. Puneetha Palakurthi](#) - Secretary  
[Sudhakar Tadepalli](#) - Treasurer  
[Ms. Kakoli Biswas](#) - Cultural Secretary  
[Mrs. Vandana Dhakar](#) - Membership Secretary  
[Dr. Padma Mathur](#) - Public Service Secretary  
[Mr. Prithvi Kumar](#) - Editor Publications  
[Mrs. Deepa Mangalat](#) – Chair, Educational Committee  
[Mr. Seshu Putcha](#) - WebMaster  
[Dr. Tej Dhakar](#) – Member  
[Mrs. Raj Jain](#) - Member  
[Mrs. Nikita Shah](#) - Member  
[Mrs. Nilima panchal](#) – Member

### 2003 NH Regional Spelling Bee Contest

IANH in association with North South Foundation held the NH Regional Spelling Bee contest on Saturday March 23 at NH Vocation Technical College, Manchester NH. The contest attracted over fourty children from ages seven through twelve. Dr. Suresh Mathur, Dr. Mary Tekoski, Mrs. Dianne Lyons, Dr. Tej Dhakar and Dr. Ravi Pandit were the judges at the contests. Ms. Seema Kumar and Siddharth Patnam pronounced the words. Kumon Learning Center Nashua, Kiwanis Club, Hudson, Barnes & Noble Nashua, Robotech Center Nashua, and Kumar Tutors Nashua sponsored the prizes. The following were the winners:

Senior Vocabulary:  
Teja Gandhi, Grade 7

Junior Vocabulary:

Meghna Chandra Grade 6  
Amritha Mangalat, Grade 6  
Mayank Dubey, Grade 3

Senior Spelling Bee:

Amritha Mangalat, Grade 6  
Pratheek Kalayanapu, Grade 7  
Meghna Chandra, Grade 6  
Pranathi Kaki, Grade 5  
Asish Andhavarapu, Grade 5  
Anjuvarshini Balaji, Grade 3

Junior Spelling Bee:

Vaibhav Shrishail, Grade 2  
Anjana Mangalat, Grade 2  
Saniya Shah, Grade 3  
Poorvi Thigale, Grade 1

## IANH countering the BH HCR-16 resolution

Press Release:

### INDIA ASSOCIATION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE NEWS

**Contact:**

Himanshu "Dicky" Desai  
India Association of New  
Hampshire  
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dickydesai@attbi.com

**For Immediate Release:**  
Wednesday, May 7, 2003

### **New Hampshire Indian Community Blasts the State House Resolution on Indian State of Kashmir**

## Leaders of India Association of New Hampshire (IANH) express shock, disbelief on the resolution; Honorable Rep. Cooney and other legislators present at the news conference

CONCORD, NH, (May 7, 2003)—India Association of New Hampshire (IANH), with about 350 members spread over 25 towns across New Hampshire, today strongly condemned the New Hampshire State House Concurrent Resolution (HCR 16) on the Indian state of Kashmir, saying the resolution was used by some state representatives to hijack and to misrepresent the intent of the New Hampshire legislature. "We have been surprised and shocked by the fact that on Feb. 20, 2003, our New Hampshire Legislature passed House Concurrent Resolution 16 (HCR 16) regarding Kashmir. However, we understand that the Legislature had passed the HCR 16 with the noble intention to promote peace, to avoid nuclear war and to end atrocities in Kashmir region. We believe that every civilized person would endorse NH legislatures noble intent," said Tony Epaphras, a resident of Manchester in Hillsboro county in House district 50. "However, we are here to

express our community's serious concern regarding the manner in which HCR 16 is being used by some of the legislators, primarily Representative Robert Giuda, to hijack and to misrepresent the intent of the NH legislature for pursuing their own personal agenda." Based on a brief trip to Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Kashmir, that was staged and hosted by the government of Pakistan, these legislators seemed to have manipulated NH legislature into passing HCR16. In doing so, they totally ignored all other relevant facts including numerous statements of our own national as well as international leaders. During their so called fact finding trip to Pakistan, chronicled in the WNDS-TV program, the legislators accepted the Pakistani view of fighting for right of self determination for people of Kashmir while overlooking the right of the people of Pakistan for democratic government. In doing so, it appears to us, our respected visiting representatives silently endorsed the present dictatorial form of government of Pakistan. "We are aware of the important role our state plays in the 'first in the nation primary' and in creating novel ideas about citizens' participation in good governance. It is our understanding that the matters of foreign policy are generally handled by the federal government and not by the

state or local governments,” said Mr. Epaphras. “In that context, we are deeply bothered by the fact that a handful of NH legislators, took it upon themselves to delve into a complex 55 year old international issue. They did not have any mandate or sponsorship from either the NH legislature or from the U.S. State Department.”

#### **About India Association of New Hampshire (IANH)**

IANH, a registered non-profit organization, was founded in 1989 to serve the needs of the growing Asian Indian American community in New Hampshire. Currently, IANH have about 350 members spread over 25 towns across New Hampshire. IANH is involved in several activities including cultural, educational and public service. The cultural activities consist of arranging variety shows, concerts, picnics and games. The educational activities involve arranging spelling bee contests and coaching classes for youth. Public service activities include monthly food distribution at the New Horizons Soup Kitchen and donation of cash, linen, blankets etc. at the Angie’s shelter for women in Manchester.

We also present entertainment program of Indian dances and music for the residents of the Hillsborough County Nursing Home in Goffstown.

#### **Press Conference on May 7, 2003 :**

##### IANH PRESS STATEMENT MAY 7, 2003

Good Afternoon

Honorable Rep. Cooney and other legislators, members of the press and fellow citizens. My name is Tony Epaphras. and I live in Manchester, Hillsboro county in House district 50. I teach at Southern New Hampshire University and also I work in Human services area.

Most of us have migrated to THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA from INDIA, which like the UNITED STATES cherishes Liberty, Democracy, Secularism and Pluralism. We have pledged our allegiance to this flag and to the republic for which it stands. We are proud to be part of this great nation, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, and this great state, THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE. As most of you know, we, the Indian Americans quietly but actively assist and participate in the constructive process of building our communities through our professional contributions as medical and health professionals, teachers, Engineers, Social services workers and business people. We have been surprised and shocked by the fact that on Feb. 20, 2003, our New Hampshire Legislature passed House Concurrent Resolution 16 (HCR 16) regarding Kashmir. However, we understand that the Legislature

had passed the HCR 16 with the noble intention to promote peace, to avoid nuclear war and to end atrocities in Kashmir region. We believe that every civilized person would endorse NH Legislatures noble intent. However, we are here to express our community’s serious concern regarding the manner in which HCR 16 is being used by some of the legislators, primarily Representative Robert Giuda, to hijack and to misrepresent the intent of the NH legislature for pursuing their own personal agenda. We are aware of the important role our state plays in the ‘first in the nation primary’ and in creating novel ideas about citizens’ participation in good governance. It is our understanding that the matters of foreign policy are generally handled by the federal government and not by the state or local governments. In that context, we are deeply bothered by the fact that a handful of NH legislators, took it upon themselves to delve into a complex 55 year old international issue. They did not have any mandate or sponsorship from either the NH legislature or from the U.S. State Department. Based on a brief trip to Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Kashmir, that was staged and hosted by the government of Pakistan, these legislators seemed to have manipulated NH legislature into passing HCR16. In doing so, they totally ignored all other

relevant facts including numerous statements of our own national as well as international leaders. During their so called fact finding trip to Pakistan, chronicled in the WNDS-TV program, the legislators accepted the Pakistani view of fighting for right of self determination for people of Kashmir while overlooking the right of the people of Pakistan for democratic government. In doing so, it appears to us, our respected visiting representatives silently endorsed the present dictatorial form of government of Pakistan.

In addition, Representative Giuda's statements that indicate his partisan, and biased agenda similar to that of Government of Pakistan trouble us. His statements in the media also show either his ignorance or a willful suppression of facts. For example, Manchester Union Leader has quoted him as saying that India continues to slaughter civilians in Kashmir in pursuit of territorial claims. His accusations of atrocities committed by Indian government run counter to the US State department's assessment. In fact, during past several months President Bush,

Secretary Colin Powell and the US Ambassador to Pakistan Ms. Nancy Powell have repeatedly asked Pakistan to stop cross border terrorism. Regardless, Representative Giuda seems to carry on his tirade of anti India statements while publicly bemoaning that Indian government has not given him visa to visit Jammu and Kashmir.

The Pakistan sponsored cross border terrorism and ethnic cleansing has resulted in over 35,000 lost lives, and 400,000 displaced people in last 12 years. We have in our audience some people from Jammu and Kashmir whose friends or families have been victims of this terrorism and ethnic cleansing. Some of you may be interested in talking to them after this press conference about their first-hand experiences.

Today, we are releasing a letter to all the state representatives and senators providing some relevant facts regarding the Kashmir issue. A copy of letter and some of the media reports have been included in the material provided to you.

In his March 2003 interview with India abroad Mr. Giuda states and I quote, "I will take

Kashmir issue to every state in the Union." We believe it is a disservice to the people of New Hampshire to immerse the legislature in foreign policy issues, when there are important pressing matters such as education funding crises, Property tax, budget deficits, high unemployment, lack of affordable housing, and healthcare right here at home. If at all a foreign policy issue is considered, a thorough and impartial study should be made before passing a resolution on the issue. However, we believe that the main focus and efforts of the NH legislators should be to help resolve the NH state issues and leave the foreign policy matters to the U.S. State Department.

We hope and pray that in the near future there will be a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute.

Thank you and God bless America.

Now I am pleased to invite Dr. Tej Dhakar and Dicky Desai to join me in answering any questions you may have.

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# This is attendance at the press conference on May7, 2003



INDIA ASSOCIATION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
*Presents:*

THE ANNUAL SPRING FESTIVAL

VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAM BY  
CHILDREN OF THE LOCAL INDIAN COMMUNITY

On

**SUNDAY, June 1, 2003**

**1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (General Body Meeting)**

**1:30 PM - 5:00 PM (Cultural program)**

at

**VENUE- ST. JOHN NEUMANN CHURCH**

ALL MEMBERS, THEIR FAMILIES AND  
FRIENDS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND

**DIRECTIONS**

708 Milford Road, 101-A, Merrimack, NH - 03054

**SOUTH:** Take Exit 8 off Route 3, turn right onto AMHERST ST/NH-101A. Turn left at the Intersection (Continental Blvd. and McDonald's).

**NORTH:** Take Exit 11 off Route 3. Take right at the first set of lights. At the next set of lights take left onto Continental Blvd. Continue till the junction 101-A (McDonald's). Pass through the lights and continue straight.

**Ticket Rates:** Members /children below age 10 - **Free**  
Non-Members - **\$3.00 per person**

*For more information, please contact **Deepa Mangalat (603) 880-0185** or **Kakoli Biswas (603) 867-9841**. For membership please contact **Mrs. Vandana Dhakar (603) 668-9028**.*

**FIRST CLASS**

NHAAI  
PO Box 3132  
Manchester, NH 03105

**INDIA ASSOCIATION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**SAMAJ PATRA SPRING 2003**

**Spring Festival**

**SUNDAY, June 1, 2003**

**AT**

**VENUE- ST. JOHN NEUMANN CHURCH**

**From 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM**