

- Nominations Invited for Elections
- Consul General Visits New Hampshire
- Kalu Ram deserves Bharat Ratna

- We Indians!!
- Let's Face It
- 22 Signs That...

Samaj Patra

Summer 2000

Chair's Corner

With the next general body meeting at the picnic, most of the office bearers of the Executive Committee would be completing their two-year terms.

The last two years have seen significant structural changes in the organization of the Association. We abolished the Board of Directors and retained the Executive Committee as a single governing body of the Association.

Our regular functions such as Diwali, Spring Festival, and Picnic have been attended beyond our expectations. The audiences have found these functions very enjoyable on a consistent basis.

Besides our regular activities, we introduced activities for children at the last Diwali function and gave out trophies to encourage the school kids that participated in the last Spring Festival.

Another welcome development has been the involvement of the students of New Hampshire College and the University of New Hampshire. They have presented interesting cultural items and attended the functions in large numbers.

All these activities required a great deal of organizing on the part of the office bearers and active help from a number of members of the Association. I would like to thank all the members of the Executive Committee, namely Rita Chopra, Padma Mathur, Nikita Shah, Homai Khanna, Raj Jain, Vandana Dhakar, Kalyani Raman, and Vasudevan for working wholeheartedly for the Association during their tenure. Special thanks to Dr. Suresh Mathur and John for always being there to help with the audio system and other activities.

Thank you very much for your support and have a great summer.

Tej Dhakar, President

Email: dhakar@mediaone.net

Phone: (603) 668-9028

In case, you missed the Spring Festival

The Spring Festival was held on Saturday March 26 at Londonderry Lion's Club. It was a huge success. Every chair was taken and many were left standing.

Jasmine Shah's students presented colorful and vibrant dances. Children of members presented a variety of different items. The New Hampshire

College students sang songs and presented a very entertaining skit.

Homai Khanna was the master of ceremonies, Padma Mathur handed out trophies to all the school kids who participated, and Prithvi Kumar proposed a vote of thanks.

Association Calendar of Events

- Saturday August 5, 2000: Picnic and annual general body meeting at Pawtuckaway State Park. See the attached flyer for more information.
- October 2000: Diwali Festival (Exact date and venue to be decided soon)

Name Change

The Executive Committee decided at one of its meeting to change the name of the Association from New Hampshire Association of Asian Indians (NHAAI) to a much simpler name India Association of New Hampshire (IANH). An amendment to this effect will be proposed at the next General Body Meeting.

Most of the Indian Associations are named this way, for example India Association of Greater Boston and India Association of

Charleston. Also, the new name implies that the membership of the Association is open to not only Asian Indians but to all who are interested in India.

Nominations Invited for Elections

All the current office bearers are completing their two-year terms at the next general body meeting to be held at the picnic. The nominations are, therefore, invited for the following positions. Each position is for a two-year term:

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Cultural Secretary
- Membership Secretary
- Corresponding Secretary
- Member, Executive Committee (no election required for this position)

The number of members of the Executive Committee is flexible and therefore, no election would be required for the membership of the Executive Committee.

Please send your nominations / self-nominations to Vandana Dhakar, membership secretary by phone at (603) 668-9028 or by email at dhakar@mediaone.net by Sunday 30th of July.

Life Members

A number of members have opted to become life members. We thank them for their support and loyalty

to the Association. The names of life members are given below:

- Rita Chopra
- Vijay & Sneha Dave
- Tej & Vandana Dhakar
- Narindar & Raj Jain
- Rod & Homai Khanna
- Prithvi & Kala Kumar
- Appa & Nalini Madiwale
- Suresh & Padma Mathur
- Srirangam & Gita Padmanabhan
- MaryAnne Reinhardt
- Kartik & Nikita Shah
- Manoj & Jasmine Shah
- Parthiban & Vani Thilagar
- Jwalant & Bhavana Vadalia

The life membership requires a one-time payment of \$150. This one time payment exempts you from the payment of any membership dues in future. You will also not be affected by any increase in membership dues in future. To become a life member, please check the appropriate box in the membership / renewal form.

Membership

Kindly renew your membership. A form is attached with this newsletter. If you are not a member, please use the same form to join the Association as a new member.

Any questions on membership may be addressed to the membership secretary Vandana Dhakar at 668-9028 or dhakar@mediaone.net

Samaj Patra distribution

Reduce paper use and help to preserve our environment by receiving Samaj Patra through Email. Let us know if you would like to start receiving newsletters and flyers through Email instead of hard copies.

This procedure is being proposed since most of the households have access to a computer. Email distribution will enable you to access web links listed in the newsletter directly without having to type them. Furthermore, it will ensure timely distribution of correspondence at a reduced cost.

If you wish to receive an electronic copy, please let us know by sending an email to the membership secretary Vandana Dhakar at dhakar@mediaone.net. Thank you for your consideration.

Website Address

Our website has moved. Please note the new website address (URL). The website includes access to all Samaj Patras, many useful links and other useful information. The website is maintained by Prof. Vasudevan, our former Corresponding Secretary.

<http://people.ne.mediaone.net/vasu/index.html>

Consul General Visits New Hampshire

Consul General Shashi Tripathi visited Manchester as the guest of the Association on June 16 and 17. This visit was arranged at very short notice.

In the evening of June 16, Tej Dhakar, Padma Mathur, and Vandana Dhakar went to Holiday Inn after her arrival to welcome her and to apprise her of the program for the next day.

On Saturday June 17, she joined the Executive Committee at 11:30 AM for a meeting and lunch at Dr.

Dhakar's residence. The Association presented her with a book on New Hampshire. After lunch, Dr. Padma Mathur and Vandana Dhakar took the consul general for sightseeing.

In the evening, The Association of South-East Asians (TASA) of the New Hampshire College organized a reception in her honor. About 50 students, the Director of International Center George Commentator, Prof. Ravi Pandit, Prof. Tony Epaphras, Dr. Padma Mathur, Dr. Dhakar, and Vandana Dhakar attended the reception. The reception was very well coordinated by Vipul Bajjal and Mohanram of TASA.

This was consul general's first visit to New Hampshire. She impressed everyone who came in her contact with her pleasant personality and her insightful views on Indian affairs and Indo-US relations.

We are trying to invite her to the Diwali function so that all the members of the Association can get a chance to know her.

About Consul General

Here is a brief biographical sketch of Shashi Tripathi:

She is the Consul General at the Consulate General of India at New York. She is a career diplomat with the rank of ambassador in the Indian Foreign Service. Her office has jurisdiction over all of North East, New York, New Jersey, Ohio, etc.

Prior to taking up the current position, she was High Commissioner in Zimbabwe and Ambassador in Poland. She has also served in Nepal, Pakistan,

Afghanistan, Russia, Germany, and Canada.

She had her schooling at the Delhi Public School and graduated with a Master of English degree from Patna University.

Her husband is also a career diplomat, currently working as High Commissioner in Mauritius. Her son studied Engineering at Cornell University and is now working with J P Morgan. Her daughter is studying at Columbia University.

Kalu Ram Deserves Bharat Ratna. Does he not?

By: S Gurumurthy

Source: New Indian Express

Date: 03/25/2000

Kalu Ram Meena is a villager in the village Naila. He belongs to the Scheduled Caste. He is a sarapanch, a council member of his village panchayat.

The village Naila is in the desert state of Rajasthan. This is where president Bill Clinton had gone on Thursday to understand the deeper meaning of India.

This rustic villager shocked the American president with a question. He asked him straight: "President Saheb, most Americans think that our country is backward and poverty stricken, where people die of hunger, and which is full of snake charmers. You also think so?"

The head of the strongest and the richest nation was taken back. He never anticipated this, especially at Naila village. And, never from a Kalu Ram. Against the background of whatever he had been told by Indians and Americans about Kalu

Ram's country, he would have expected Kalu Ram to ask from the world's richest 'Raja' - this is how the Naila people called Bill Clinton - for some favors, for himself and for his village. But Kalu Ram wanted no favor.

He challenged the very picture that some of the best minds in the country, including ministers and prime ministers whether it was Nehru then or Vajpayee today - officials and columnists, non-government organizations and intellectuals have presented about India to the Americans, to the West and even to us, Indians.

Recovering from his shock, Clinton responded: "No. India is not a poverty stricken nation. My visit will help to correct this wrong impression of my fellow Americans that India is poor." Bill Clinton understood that Kalu Ram's question also contained the answer, and, that is, this nation is not a poor nation, as the whole world is made to believe.

That India means hunger and poverty, superstition and illiteracy, snake charming and bride burning, married children and prostituting widows, is the picture that has been unflinchingly presented to the world and west for over a century. Not by foreigners, but by Indians themselves since independence.

The neo-Catherine Mayos are ever sniffing around the Indian gutters to make films and write books to tell the west and India that India means gutter. Contrast that with Bill Clinton's own country. One-third of pregnant girls are school-going children. But no American would define the American identity as unwed, child-mothers.

Before independence, the missionaries started advertising India's poverty abroad to raise funds for their religious conversion work. After independence, the success of their work inspired many voluntary organizations to copy their success to secure aid for their work. This trend became the obsession of these organizations, which successfully made business out of the advertised poverty and hunger in India.

The Indian government too did not lag behind. It also confirmed the image of India as a poverty-stricken and hunger-ridden country to secure aid. With the result, poverty and hunger ceased to be India's problems, and become her image, even her identity.

This is what Kalu Ram has challenged. But only very few know that Kalu Ram is right in challenging the entire opinion-making intellect of India. India was never poor, nor is it. If India is poor, it is in leadership. Not just political but intellectual leadership. It is poor not in its resources, human and material, but in properly augmenting them.

Just take one asset in which the masses of India and generally the women of India have put their faith in - gold. Every economist would advise that it is a wasteful and idle asset and no one should invest in gold. But the Indian mind defied this advice and bought gold.

The government virtually declared gold as an illegal asset and handed over the entire gold trade to smugglers who emerged as monopoly gold suppliers. Yet the Indians continued to buy gold. Even Lord Balaji was forced to buy

smuggled gold to mint the Balaji coin for his devotees.

Not many in our country know that Indians have accumulated a gold stock of nearly 3 lakh tons. The value of this is about 3000 billion US Dollars.

This may not make sense unless it is related to the wealth of America itself. The value of gold stock in India alone is equal to one-third the market capitalization of corporate America! Again it is equal to one-half of the GDP of America! Again gold in unornamented form is estimated at 20000 tons, which is equal to 200 billion dollars, or 9.5 lakh crores!

The entire gold is in black form, because only smugglers supplied gold to the people for 50 years. Unless the black gold is brought out into circulation, this vital asset will continue to be our liability.

Imagine if the government gives tax immunity to all gold deposited into banks. The estimate is that we will raise gold deposit of at least 5000 to 10000 tons which is equal to 50 to 100 billion US dollars.

This will stabilize our foreign exchange front, help India control the world gold market and prices, bring down the interest rates and put into circulation a giant asset that moves around stealthily, like a thief, even now. This is how we have reduced one of our most valuable asset into a liability.

Kalu Ram knows nothing about this. But he is sure that we are not a poor nation. Will this open the eyes of Indians in the way it opened Bill Clinton's and made him promise to correct his fellow Americans about India? That is Indians are worth

trading and doing business with, and not the charity of Americans.

Kalu Ram has in effect told Bill Clinton that America can invest in India, while those who projected India as a poor country had convinced themselves that India deserves aid from the Americans.

Kalu Ram Meena deserves to be awarded Bharat Ratna, for telling the truth to the most important man in the world today - a truth, which most Indians have not noticed. Does he not?

(Contributed by Nikita Shah)

LET'S FACE IT

Let's face it – English is a crazy language. There is no egg in eggplant nor ham in hamburger, neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England or French fries in France. Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat.

We take English for granted. But if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square and guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

And why writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham? If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of both beeth? One goose, 2 geese. So, one loose tooth, 2 leese teeth? One index, 2 indices?

Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend. If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it?

If teachers taught, why didn't preacher praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat? If you wrote a letter, perhaps you bite your tongue?

Sometimes, I think all the English speakers should be committed to an asylum for the verbally insane. In what language do people recite at a play and play at a recital? Ship by truck and send cargo or truck by ship? Have noses that run and feet that smell? Park on driveways and drive on parkways? Lift a thumb to thumb a lift? Table a plan in order to plan a table?

How can a slim chance and fat chance be the same, while a wise man and wise guy are opposites? How can overlook and oversee be opposites, while quite a lot and quite a few are alike? How can a person be "pretty ugly"?

You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill a form by filling it out and in which an alarm clock goes off by going on. Why is "crazy man" an insult, while to insert a comma and say "crazy, man!" is a compliment (as when applauding a jazz performance).

English was invented by people, not computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race (which, of course, isn't a race at all). That is why, when the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible. And why, when I wind up my watch, I start it, but when I wind up this essay, I end it,

Don't tell me you knew all of it

(Contributed by Raj Jain)

22 Signs That You've Had Too Much of the 90's

1. You just tried to enter your password on the microwave.
2. You now think of three espressos as "getting wasted."
3. You haven't played solitaire with a real deck of cards in years.
4. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of three.
5. You call your son's beeper to let him know it's time to eat. He emails you back from his bedroom, "What's for dinner?"
6. Your daughter sells Girl Scout Cookies via her web site.
7. You chat several times a day with a stranger from South Africa, but you haven't spoken with your next-door neighbor yet this year.
8. You didn't give your valentine a card this year, but you posted one for your e-mail buddies via a web page.
9. Your daughter just bought a CD of all the records your college roommate used to play.
10. You check the ingredients on a can of chicken noodle soup to see if it contains echinacea.
11. You check your blow-dryer to see if it's Y2K compliant.
12. Your grandmother clogs up your e-mail inbox, asking you to send her a JPG file of your newborn so she can create a screen saver.
13. You pull up in your own driveway and use your cell phone to see if anyone is home.

14. Every commercial on television has a website address at the bottom of the screen.

15. You buy a computer and a week later it is out of date and now sells for half the price you paid.

16. The concept of using real money, instead of credit or debit, to make a purchase is foreign to you.

17. Cleaning up the dining room means getting the fast food bags out of the back seat of your car.

18. Your reason for not staying in touch with family is that they do not have e-mail addresses.

19. You consider second-day air delivery painfully slow.

20. Your dining room table is now your flat filing cabinet.

21. Your idea of being organized is multiple-colored Post-it notes.

22. You hear most of your jokes via e-mail instead of in person.

(Contributed by Tej Dhakar)

An Appeal to Fellow Indians

B. M. Dalal
Email: mdalal@ctron.com

India is poor country, meaning 60% of its population lives in poverty with insufficient food for family, lack of proper housing, and inadequate healthcare. Every new government spends huge amounts of money to benefit the poor through subsidized education, food, housing, and healthcare. But as it happens in a democratic setup corruption, bureaucratic delays, and high administrative costs leave hardly 5% to 10% of the amount allocated for the actual benefit.

However, there are many NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations) backed by well wishers, dedicated

workers, and philanthropists who in their silent ways do their bit to help the needy. Besides, religious groups and political organizations are also engaged in small and large ways for these types of efforts. However, they have secondary motives, which are to promote to their causes. Also, most of these organizations are urban-based located in big cities, towns, and large villages. Hence, their work draws the required funds, workers, publicity, and recognitions society very easily.

However, a large population that is located in remote villages, in difficult terrain and hilly areas, receives little attention for such help. 'India Today' in one of its recent issues, recognized a dozen individuals and organizations for their wonderful work in backward areas of the country. A few of those are listed below:

In Panchmahal district of Gujarat (heavily Adivasi populated), one mechanical engineer is busy developing local resources mainly water and roads so that the people can grow more than one crop and thus reduce the exodus of Adivasis in the off-season.

In Madhya Pradesh, a young Adivasi started private banking to promote the savings habit and to loan small amounts to the needy for developing small businesses. The message spread to many more interior villages, giving hope and help to people in need of financial resources to develop and sustain home industry. Similar work by SEWA for the benefit of self-employed women in Ahmedabad is world renowned.

An ex-retired army person started his activities in remote hilly regions

in Maharashtra to augment water resources, build roads, etc. A successful beginning helped in all round development such as healthcare, education, sanitation, and housing.

A person's first priority is to attend to the present and future needs of his family. Next, he may help in a small or big way to address the needs of his nearest relatives. Next, he may spare something for the needs of his community, country, and the religious faith. Thereafter, he thinks of the need of others. I hope that the American citizens of Indian origin may include the NGOs in India in the "others". It is a fact that even small donations that may be a very small fraction of the amount spent on family celebrations and entertainment, will go a long way in helping the needy in India because every dollar is worth 45 rupees.

My appeal to Indian cultural associations in USA is to channel these types of contributions from the Indian community to the NGOs to help the needy in India. It is however necessary to check and verify from time to time the activities of NGOs so that every dollar is well utilized. For this personal visits to the location during visits to India or by friends and relatives in India is also necessary.

During my stay in India last year, I had the opportunity to visit two non-governmental organizations, Sarvodaya Parivar Trust and Manthan, working for the most needy in Gujarat in remote areas. I was very impressed with the work they are doing and think they deserve help from the Indian community in the USA. If you would like to know more about

these two organizations, please send me an email at mdalal@ctron.com.

Click to help Rajasthan recover from draught

Please help people affected by drought in Gujarat and Rajasthan. All you have to do is to visit the site (www.hssworld.com) and click on the banner "Send H2O".

It takes only 30 seconds of your valuable time. This little help can turn into big blessing from GOD.

(Contributed by Nikita Shah)

Officers of the Association

Dr. Tej Dhakar, *President*
 Mrs. Rita Chopra, *Vice-President*
 Mrs. Nikita Shah, *Secretary*
 Mrs. Kalyani Anantharaman, *Treasurer*
 Dr. Padma Mathur, *Cultural Secretary*
 Mrs. Vandana Dhakar, *Membership Secretary*
 Mrs. Homai Khanna, *Member*
 Mrs. Raj Jain, *Member*
 Mr. Raja Sharma, *Member*
 Mr. Prithvi Kumar, *Member*

The Editor or the Officers of the New Hampshire Association of Asian Indians are not responsible for the views or the authenticity of any of the information in the Samaj Patra. The information is only provided as a service to NHAAI members, and readers are advised to use their discretion and verify all information.

FIRST CLASS

NHAAI
PO Box 3132
Manchester, NH 03105

NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF ASIAN INDIANS

SAMAJ PATRA SUMMER 2000

**SUMMER PICNIC
Pawtuckaway State Park
Saturday August 5, 2000
10:30 AM to 4 PM**