

# Samaj Patra

**This Issue:** Annual Picnic flyer,  
An Appeal from Asha for  
Education.

July 1998 / Summer Issue /Editor: P. T. Vasudevan

## *Association calendar of events*

- **8.9.98 Annual Picnic. See Flyer**
- 8. 9. 98 General Body Meeting, Londonderry Lion's Club
- 10.17. 98 Diwali - Manchester (Place and Date Tentative) Future issue of Samaj Patra will carry more details.

## *NHAAI New Address*

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

## *Annual Picnic and General Body Meeting*

The annual picnic will be held on August 9, 1998 at Elm Brook Park, Contocook/Hopkinton. Please see attached flyer for details. The annual general body meeting of NHAAI will also be held on the same day at Elm Brook Park. Please mark the day on your calendar, and be sure to attend with family and friends.

## *The Paradox Of Our Age*

Contributed by Tej Dhakar

We have taller buildings, but shorter tempers;  
wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints;  
we spend more, but have less;  
we buy more, but enjoy it less.

We have bigger houses and smaller families;  
more conveniences, but less time;  
we have more degrees, but less sense;

more knowledge, but less judgment;  
more experts, but more problems;  
more medicine, but less wellness.

We drink too much,  
smoke too much,  
spend too recklessly,  
laugh too little,  
drive too fast,  
get too angry too quickly,  
stay up too late,  
get up too tired,  
read too seldom,  
watch TV too much,  
and pray too seldom.

We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values.  
We talk too much, love too seldom and lie too often.  
We've learned how to make a living, but not a life;  
we've added years to life, not life to years.

We've been all the way to the moon and back,  
but have trouble crossing the street to meet the new neighbor.

We've conquered outer space, but not inner space;  
we've done larger things, but not better things;  
we've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul;  
we've split the atom, but not our prejudice;  
we write more, but learn less;  
plan more, but accomplish less.

We've learned to rush, but not to wait;  
we have higher incomes, but lower morals;  
more food but less appeasement;  
more acquaintances, but fewer friends;  
more effort but less success.

We build more computers to hold more information,  
to produce more copies than ever, but have less communication;  
we've become long on quantity, but short on quality.

These are the times of fast foods and slow digestion;  
tall men, and short character;  
steep profits, and shallow relationships.

These are the times of world peace, but domestic warfare;  
more leisure and less fun;  
more kinds of food, but less nutrition.

These are days of two incomes, but more divorce;  
of fancier houses, but broken homes.

These are days of quick trips,  
disposable diapers,  
throwaway morality,  
one-night stands,  
overweight bodies,  
and pills that do everything from cheer, to quiet,  
to kill.

It is a time when there is much in the show window  
and nothing in the stockroom.

## *Adam Osborne writes: Pride of an Indian*

Adam Osborne is the guy who invented the first microcomputer bus called S-100. He's one of the two that started Apple computers (the other is Steve Jobs). This article was printed in Datquest magazine in the April 91 issue. It was written by Adam Osborne, who is

the director of Silicon Valley Technologies and publisher of a monthly newsletter "From the Fountainhead" I was raised in Tamil Nadu in South India, in the ashram of Sri Ramana Maharishi, of an English father and a Polish mother. Both were dedicated followers of Sri Ramana Maharishi. Therefore as a child growing up in the small town of Tiruvannamalai, Tamilnadu. I was fluent in Tamil and was surrounded by Indians who were proud of their nationality and heritage, and believed they had a lot to teach us Europeans. I still speak enough Tamil to get by, and feel that my roots are indeed in India. I must be only professed "vellackaaren" (=white) Tamilian in America. After all, how could anyone, even an English boy, grown up in Tiruvannamalai, in the ashram of Sri Ramana Maharishi, and not acquire a pride in his roots? It is therefore with some misgivings that today I find myself dealing with Indians, many of who do not feel proud of their Indianness. Indian Americans represent the most affluent minority in America, ahead of Jewish Americans and Japanese Americans. This is a statistic and not an opinion. Indians swarm all over the Silicon valley, where they are an integral part of most product development teams: be they teams developing new semiconductor chips, software packages or computers. Indians are recognized throughout America as technically superior. No Indian in America has to explain his educational background, or apologize for his technical training. And yet, as a group, though Indian Americans are quick to acknowledge their caste, religion or family, they lack national pride.

Indians are not proud of their nationality as Indians, something I realized many years ago, something that puzzled me. Recently, talking before Indian audiences on the lecture circuit, I have frequently talked to Indians of their lack of national pride, with telling results. Invariably, after making this assertion from the lecture podium, I find myself surrounded by Indians: Engineers, Scientists, doctors, even lawyers, all asserting the correctness of my observations,

"You are correct," they will assert. "I am not proud that I am an Indian." Is the reason India's colonial heritage? Who knows? But whatever the reason, it is a pity. Since the day Indians learn pride, India will rapidly move out of its third world status to become one of the world's industrial powers. Today I work with an Indian American, trying to help him make his dream come true. And in the process, make my own dream come true, since I have hitched my dream to his. Then, with my dream realized, I will return to India, to preach Indian pride: not pride in being a Hindu, or practicing Islam or being a Parsee, or a Sikh: not pride in being a Tamilian, or a Telugu, or a Punjabi, or a Marwari; not pride in being a Brahmin rather than a lesser caste.

These are all divisive differences that India would be better off without. But I will preach that Indians must learn to be proud of being Indians just as Singapore nationals are proud of their nationality, irrespective of their race or their religion. Then there will be no more shoddy Indian products, since every worker will generate output with the stamp of a proud man on it. With self-evident quality that screams out: "That is the work of an Indian!" And corruption will decline.

For, although bribes are solicited by greedy, dishonest men, as well as by men who do not earn enough to feed themselves and their families, and even though these root causes of corruption transcend the bases of lack of Indian pride of which I speak, nevertheless a proud man will pause, more than a man without pride, before extending his hand to receive a bribe. And a proud Indian will try harder to be responsible for products and services that others will praise. And it is in that praise that India's future Industrial greatness lies.

- Adam Osborne

## *Humor*

### *Contributed by Prithvi*

Sometime in 1999:

Dial. Ring.

"Hello. This is Bell Atlantic-Nynex-MCI-TCI-America Online customer service. May I help you?"

"Yes, I'd like to report a problem with my telephone."

"Our records show you don't have local phone service through us."

"How'd you know who I am? I didn't give you my name."

"We have ways."

"Well, I'm pretty sure you have my phone service."

"Our records show you have long-distance, cellular, satellite TV, Internet access and your MasterCard through us. Your phone service must be through one of the other three big communications companies. Have you looked at your bill?"

"My bill is 134 pages long."

"Oh, you're one of our light users. But we'd be happy to become your local phone provider. If you sign up, you get one-third off long-distance calls made on your cellular phone to friends and family members who have an Internet home page."

"It's tempting, but I just want my phone fixed."

"Fine, sir. Just a reminder: Next time you need to contact us, try our Internet site. And when you get there, you can sign up for a free showing, through your satellite TV system, of Hamlet starring Bell Atlantic-Nynex-MCI-TCI-America Online CEO Ray Smith."

"Thanks. Goodbye."

Click. Dial. Ring.

"Good morning! This is SBC-Pacific Telesis-Sprint-GTE-Little Caesar's."

"Little Caesars? You do pizza?"

"You buy it over phone lines. Would you like one? You get a medium with two toppings when you order HBO on cable."

"Uh, no. I called because my phone line isn't working right."

"I see. Do you have your phone over your cable line or do you have your phone over a phone line."

"A phone line, I think."

"OK, then that's not SBC-Pacific Telesis-Sprint-GTE-Little Caesars. My file shows that you get cable TV and video games on demand from us, but in your area, we only offer phone service over cable lines. If you use a phone line, it must be one of the other companies."

"Thanks. I'll call them."

"And sir? We're testing some new products in your area. We're offering electric service and natural gas service for 10% less than the public utilities. One-stop shopping. We want to provide you with everything that comes into your house and connects to a device or appliance."

"No, thanks. Bye."

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Click. Dial. Ring.

"Hello. Endorphin Enterprises."

"I'm sorry. I must have dialed the wrong number."

"You're probably in the right place. We just changed our name. We used to be US West-UUNet-Universal Pictures-Ameritech, but that got pretty cumbersome. I guess they wanted to call it UUUUSA, but then decided to

start fresh. So we're Endorphin Enterprises."

"Clever."

"Personally, I thought we should call ourselves Youse Guys. Get it?"

"Yeah, that's good. Um, I was calling because my phone line doesn't seem to work right."

"Ohhhhh. What services do you have with us?"

"I'm not sure."

"We offer everything: local, long-distance, cellular, cable TV, satellite TV, Internet access, music on demand and so on. But so does everybody else these days."

"Yes, well, it's gotten a little confusing. I've already called those two other companies with long names."

"Oh, right. OK, see, it looks like you don't have anything at all with us. Now, we could make your life easier by giving you all the services so you'd know who to call. Except in your area, we only offer movies on demand over the Internet, so that could be a problem."

"No, really, I just want to get my phone fixed."

"My guess is you must have your local phone service through AT&T. That's the only other company left in the business."

"OK, I'll try AT&T."

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Click. Dial. Ring.

"Hello. AT&T. Bob Allen speaking."

"Bob Allen? The chairman? I'm sorry. I wanted customer service."

"No problem. Hold on a moment."

Pause. Rustling sounds.

"Hello. Customer service. Bob Allen speaking."

"Mr. Allen, I really just wanted customer service."

"This is it. We spun off everything but my office. It goes totally against the megamerger trend. Our shareholders love it. I'm getting paid \$55 billion this year."

"Well, sir, my phone line doesn't work right, and I think I need someone to come fix it."

"Be right there, as soon as I can find my tool belt."

### *An Appeal from "Asha for Education."*

Cambridge, MA - At the close of 50 years of independence, over half of India's people have never been taught to read and write. On the eve of India's 51st Independence Day, between 9 and 10 am on August 14, 1998, people all over the world will participate in a global virtual event called Work an Hour for Education to ameliorate this situation and make a difference. We invite all friends of India to join us by donating one hour's pay to help improve access to basic education for half a billion people.

Asha for Education, an international organization committed to supporting basic education in India, is organizing this worldwide event to increase public awareness and raise funds for scores of schools located all over India. Asha firmly believes that education is a prerequisite for socio-economic change. We support projects whose primary focus is literacy, frequently complemented by vocational training. Efforts are directed predominantly at children in the age-group five to fourteen years, especially in rural communities. Asha's long term goal is to empower these children and enable them to break the cycle of illiteracy and poverty.

Asha for Education is a non-profit group with a difference. Ever since we

started over seven years ago, we have been a zero-overhead organization. Every penny donated is used solely to fund children's educational projects; all administrative costs are borne by our volunteers. All donations to Asha are tax-deductible. Checks should be made payable to Asha for Education and mailed to:

Work an Hour for Education  
c/o Asha for Education  
Room W20-401 MIT  
77 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02139. USA.

It takes only US \$15 per month to provide an education for one Indian child imagine how many lives a single hour's pay can transform. We urge you to join us during one symbolic hour as we work together to help educate India's millions.

Visit <http://www.ashanet.org> or email [hour@ashanet.org](mailto:hour@ashanet.org) for more information.

### ***Email addresses:***

We are in the process of updating the email addresses of all our members. Please send email to the Editor P.T.Vasudevan (email address: [ptv@cisunix.unh.edu](mailto:ptv@cisunix.unh.edu)). This will enable us to include your name for future mailings of Samaj Patra or other important notices by email. Thank you.

### **NHAAI Executive Committee:**

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### ***Membership Renewal:***

It's time to renew your membership! For your convenience, a membership form is attached.