

- Spring Festival
- Earthquake Relief Efforts
- Public Service Projects and much more

# Samaj Patra

Spring 2001

## President's Corner

Please accept my greetings to all the members of the Association. This is the first Samaj Patra of the year 2001. There are a number of important items to report relating to some of the activities of the Association in the year 2000, and the activities planned for the current year.

### The New Name of the Association

After prolonged deliberations, the Executive Committee decided to change the name of the Association to reflect the broader context of the Indian community in New Hampshire.

I am pleased to report that our Association will henceforth bear the name "India Association of New Hampshire". We have received a certificate from the Secretary of State of New Hampshire recognizing the name change.

### Visit by The Consul General of Indian Consulate, New York

The Consul General of India Hon. Shashi Tripathi visited us last

October and was the guest of honor at the Diwali function. I thank you, the participants and the volunteers. We had a nice program followed by a Social hour and dinner.

### Earthquake Relief Effort

You may have heard about our Association's effort to help the victims of the recent earthquake in Gujarat. Cash contributions pledged by members will be distributed to relief organizations working in the affected area. We have sent notifications to members on the status of our effort.

We held a meeting on February 17, 2001 to discuss the distribution of funds. We considered several organizations, such as, Government sponsored, International Relief organizations, and Gujarathi cultural organizations as potential recipients of our collection. The Executive Committee decided to send the money to GURJAR of New England.

GURJAR is a registered organization in the New England and is working with several relief organizations in Gujarat. Therefore your contributions will be immediately used in the area. Furthermore, GURJAR is a local

organization and we decided to unite behind them. There are several organizations in the area engaged in relief effort. It is important for us to join together in this effort than to compete with each other.

### Public Service Activities

A number of public service activities are planned for the upcoming months. We are planning to host an entertainment program for the senior citizens at the Hillsborough County Nursing Home. The event is scheduled for March 24. An Indian dance group from the local area has volunteered to stage the activity. We are also planning to launch more public service projects to help the homeless in the area. The details are outlined in this newsletter.

### Annual Spring Festival

Our annual Spring festival will be held on Sunday, April 1 (Not an April Fool joke!). Please contact Ms. Nilima Panchal if you or a member of your family is interested in taking part in the cultural activities. Nilima can be reached at 665-9458 or email to: [npanchal@mediaone.net](mailto:npanchal@mediaone.net)

### **Membership Information**

Our membership census currently stands at sixty-eight, consisting of eighteen life members and fifty members. I would like to see that number to be doubled by the end of summer. Please renew your membership at your earliest. We need your email ID to enable us to communicate with you more efficiently. Please send your email address to Vandana Dhakar at "[dhakar@\\_mediaone.net](mailto:dhakar@mediaone.net)." We have now been sending important bulletins to our members through email.

We need the support of all the members to make these programs work. I request you to renew your membership, join our team, and help us make noteworthy contribution to our community.

With all the best wishes to you and your family,

Prithvi Kumar  
President

### **Association News**

#### **Name Change**

The name of the Association has been changed from "New Hampshire Association of Asian Indians" to "India Association of New Hampshire." The Secretary of State has certified the name change.

#### **Website Address**

Our website has moved. Please note the new website address (URL). The Website includes access to old Samaj Patra, many

useful links and other useful information.

Prof. Vasudevan, our former Corresponding Secretary, maintains the Web site.

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

### **Upcoming Events**

- Saturday March 24, Hillsborough County Nursing Home visit
- Sunday April 1, Spring Festival (See flyer for details)

### **Earthquake Relief Effort**

At the request of many members, we launched an effort to collect and distribute cash contributions pledged by our members. As of this date we have received some checks and we are waiting for the checks from those who pledged. We will be making two payments to GURJAR. The first payment has already been made and followed by the second later. We informed the current status through to all the members whose email is on file.

The executive committee met on February 17 and discussed about cash disbursement.

Three categories of organizations were considered. First the Government of India sponsored organizations operated through the Embassy of India. The second, International Relief Organizations like India Development Relief Fund (IDRF). The third category is the Gujarathi cultural organizations, like GURJAR. The committee unanimously approved

disbursement to GURJAR. GURJAR directly works with numerous relief organizations in the area. Therefore your contributions will be used quickly to help the victims in the affected area. Furthermore, the executive committee members expressed opinion to unite behind a local organization. GURJAR as most of you may know is a well-known registered organization operating in the area.

There is still time to send in your contributions should you choose to use our Association. However, I would like set a cut off date of April 1, 2001 after which we will not be accepting any more contributions towards the earthquake relief. Contributions made through our association are fully tax deductible. We have set up a new account for this purpose. There is no overhead to process your contributions. Please make checks payable to IANH-Earthquake Relief Fund, c/o Ms. Nikita Shah, Treasurer, 29 Teak Drive, Nashua NH 03062.

### **Association Calendar**

#### **Spring Festival April 1**

The Spring Festival will be held on April 1. The activities will start at 1:30 PM. The details are outlined in the Flyer. If you or a member of your family would like to participate in the cultural activities, please contact Ms Nilima Panchal. Nilima can be reached at 665-9458 or email to "[npanchal@mediaone.net](mailto:npanchal@mediaone.net)"

## Nursing Home Visit March 24

A group of volunteers will be visiting the Hillsborough County Nursing Home in Goffstown on Saturday March 24. This group will provide cultural entertainment to the residents. A dance group from Massachusetts has volunteered to stage the performance. The performance will be divided into two sessions covering the entire day. We expect to entertain about three hundred guests (senior citizens on wheel chair).

If you are interested in staging a similar performance, please contact Padma Mathur at 669-8564 or email to "spadmam@aol.com"

## IANH Public Service Activities

We are planing to distribute bread sandwiches to the local shelter. At present we will start with Manchester and Nashua area shelters. More will be added if there are volunteers to carry out the tasks. This is an excellent opportunity to get young adults involved in Public Service activities. We will make sandwich distribution once a month. The coordinator in each area will set up the date and time.

If you live in the Manchester area, please contact Prithvi Kumar at 472-5835 (Email: [sairam1@erols.com](mailto:sairam1@erols.com)) for further details on dates time etc. For those who live in the Nashua area, please contact Nikita Shah at

889-4046 or email at "[nikita@shahfamily.com](mailto:nikita@shahfamily.com)"

We need response from members who live in other areas. We will then work with you to set up similar arrangement.

## 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.

Enquiry on membership may be addressed to the membership secretary Vandana Dhakar at 668-9028 or [dhakar@mediaone.net](mailto: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](mailto:dhakar@mediaone.net). Thank you for your consideration.

## Community Calendar

### "5H Walk for Gujarat -an international event

The 5H program is a massive social uplift project that puts the tools in people's hands to better their own lives. An emphasis is placed on providing education in human values so that people can take more responsibility for themselves and their environment. Selected youth undergo a training program to become youth leaders in their region and guide 5H projects in up to 10 communities. 5H projects are already underway in more than 2000 villages across India and are planned for other countries.

**The Art of Living Foundation has adopted 26 villages in the recent earthquake affected areas of Gujarat under the 5H program.**

Join several thousands of people in over 30 cities around the world (*including Tokyo, Mumbai, Dubai, Oslo, Lyon, Amsterdam, London, Washington DC, San Francisco*) all walking on the same day for the same cause. Sunday, March 11, 2001 **Charles River, Cambridge Walk starts and ends at Lee Pool Memorial Building** (Across from Mass General Hospital; Charles/M.G.H T-Stop) *Registration Starts at 11:00 am Walk Starts at 11:30 am* Registration Fee: \$10 (Ages 18 and under Free).

Call : 978-568-8670 or email: [boston5h@hotmail.com](mailto:boston5h@hotmail.com)

Prithvi and Kala Kumar will be taking part in the walk. If interested in sponsoring us,

please call 472-5835 or email to [sairam1@erols.com](mailto:sairam1@erols.com).

Your contributions are Tax deductible. Please make checks payable to "5H."

## Community News

### Shishubharati in New Hampshire !!

Submitted by Ms. Vani Thilagar

Would you be interested in starting a school of Indian culture in Nashua area similar to Shishubharati ([www.shishubharati.org](http://www.shishubharati.org)) in Burlington, Massachusetts? Shishubharati is a School of Languages and Cultures of India and is run as a non-profit school located in Burlington, Massachusetts. This is an institution started by enthusiastic volunteers nearly 20 years back for the benefit of children of Indian origin.

The Burlington Shishubharati group is willing to start classes in Nashua if there is sufficient response in the New Hampshire Indian community. We will need enough students, volunteer teachers and administrators. Hence, I'm sending this note to assess the community interest.

If you are interested, please contact [shishu\\_bharati\\_nh@yahoo.com](mailto:shishu_bharati_nh@yahoo.com), or call Vani Thilagar at 886-3560, or Nikita Shah 889-4046. Please pass on this information to your friends in the community.

Email:  
Vani Thilagar  
[v\\_thilagar@hotmail.com](mailto:v_thilagar@hotmail.com)  
Nikita Shah  
[nikita@shahfamily.com](mailto:nikita@shahfamily.com)

## Officers of the Association

Mr. Prithvi Kumar, *President*  
Dr. Padma Mathur, *Vice-President*  
Mrs. Raj Jain, *Secretary*  
Mrs. Nikita Shah, *Treasurer*  
Mrs. Homai Khanna, *Cultural Secretary*  
Mrs. Vandana Dhakar,  
*Membership Secretary*  
Mr. Seshu Putcha, *Corresponding Secretary*  
Sid Prabhakar, *Member*  
Mrs. Nilima Panchal, *Member*  
Dr. Tej Dhakar, *Member*  
Mrs. Rita Chopra, *Member*

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