



# BHARATI **भारती**

A Publication of the India Association of Indianapolis, Inc.

Vol. 29, No. 1

A Magazine with a Mission - to Inform, Communicate and Enlighten

January-February 2005

## President Message...

### President's Message!

Let me first start off by thanking each and everyone of you and especially the members of India Association of Indianapolis, for your continued support during 2004 and making it a great year for all of us. As a member of the 2004 executive committee, I heard repeatedly from most, if not all of you, that the programs were not only of high quality but they also brought all of the Indian subgroups together. Programs like *Dakshin Dhamaka*, and Gregory Hackcok's performances were just two of the many examples that were a welcoming change. Thanks to all the choreographers, dance teachers, program coordinators and volunteers as well, for having brought us all those wonderful programs. Last but not least, many thanks are due to Rajesh Kher, the President of the 2004 Executive committee, who worked extremely hard and set the bar high.

We the Executive Committee of 2005 are looking forward to bringing you all a great year with exciting events. We hope to raise that bar even higher! But this will be only possible with your continued support and participation. Last year (2004) was a year in which our focus was to bring quality programs to you all and most importantly it was to get the regional groups together. I believe, we accomplished that goal to a great degree. This year our focus is to build upon that momentum and increase participation from all of you. I seek your help and co-operation in making those that are still non-members of IAI, become members of this prestigious organization. IAI is an organization made up of members who instill faith year after year and this continued support and show of loyalty is what makes the executive committee work even harder. It is disappointing to note that out of the 2500 Indian families who live in Indianapolis and surrounding areas only 10% are members. Let's get this membership needle moving north. As part of a commitment to you and to stay true to the mission of IAI; "*To carry out educational and charitable activities*", IAI will send, on your behalf, \$1.00 from each of your new or renewing membership dues, to CRY (Child Relief and You). Membership cements belief and that belief drives motivation for all of us who work tirelessly in bringing these types of programs.

Our first program this year will begin with a salute to our freedom fighters. On January 29<sup>th</sup> 2005 we will celebrate the India Republic Day marking the 55<sup>th</sup> Republic Day. India became Republic on the 26<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1950. Republic Day reminds us of the fulfillment of the pledge that was made on the midnight of Independence as a "tryst with destiny". Our program titled '*Salam India - A celebration of sovereignty*' will be celebrated by various cultural programs performed by children and adults. The day will also include competition by children ages 5 through 13 who will display their artwork symbolizing the aspirations which 'we the people of India'

cherish. IAI hopes that all of you will join us on this festive day and strengthen our team by renewing your patronage.

I am truly blessed with a team this year that has already provided me with many new ideas of what could be coming your way. A sampling of our program this year will include cultural events, inter-collegiate Indian talent competition, Summer Fair and other programs focused on our children, our culture and our values. The reason we can bring you these types of events is because of your continued support and participation... Here are some suggestions of what you can do to make this organization even stronger and a place we can all call, *home away from home*.

### ▲ Membership

- Please renew your membership for 2005 and get your friends who are not yet members to become one. IAI membership is for the calendar year; January to December. Remember, this year with the help of CRY your dues will touch more than just people of Indianapolis.

### ▲ Participation

- Encourage your child/children to take part in the programs by calling the joint secretary in charge of events and the youth group advisor. Your participation in these events will send a positive message and encouragement to all you volunteer their time in bringing you these quality programs.

### ▲ Sponsorship

- IAI is a non-for-profit organization with limited funds and we all strive for top-notch quality programs. To bring these types of programs we need your support as sponsors. Remember your financial backing is an investment which has guaranteed returns.

Finally, I would like to end this address with an appeal, a comment and a promise.

- Believe in the organization and help us grow it.

- We might not be perfect in bringing you exactly what you expect and therefore I encourage your direct feedback. You can email me or call me anytime and we will do our best to make it better. Criticism is welcome, so long as it's positive.

- We, the executive committee of 2005, will work hard and selflessly to bring you the best year yet.

Thank you and Jai Hind.

Haresh Gangwani  
President, IAI Executive Committee 2005  
hareshgangwani@yahoo.com  
<http://www.iaibharati.com>

**IAI celebrating India's Republic Day  
on Saturday, January 29, 2005**

at Ransburg Auditorium, University of Indianapolis  
1400 E. Hanna Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46227  
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Food and Entertainment  
Contact: Haresh Gangwani @ 317-803-4324

PLEASE SEE INSERT FOR MORE DETAILS

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**Geeta Mandal Upcoming Events**

Shivratri -  Sunday, March 6, 2004  
3:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Ram Navami - Saturday, April 16  
Geeta Mandal meets every second Sunday of each month from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm and every Wednesday, from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm at India Community Center, 4420 W. 56th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46220.

For more info call any of the committee members.

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**In Memoriam...**

On behalf of India Association of Indianapolis deepest sympathy to all families for the loss of their very dear ones.

- Reena Gangwani, her brother passed away in car accident in Australia.
- Sanjeev Ahuja's mother passed away in India
- Avantika Kachhwaha's mother passed away in India.

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Editor: Please mail your articles to Ram Ravindran • rravindr@iupui.edu or  
Mail: 7731 Traders Cove Lane, Indianapolis, IN 46254 Phone: 291-2816

*Bharati* is a bimonthly newsletter of the India Association of Indianapolis, Inc., dedicated to communicate, inform and enlighten the Community and be a forum for fostering Indian arts and culture. It reaches all the Indian American Community of Central Indiana. *Bharati* invites advertisements, articles and letters to the editor.

Articles should be of general interest and not be more than 600 words. Letters to the editor should not exceed 200 words. Letters should be typed double spaced and must include your name. The editor reserves the right to edit any material selected for publication.

THE DEADLINE FOR RECEIVING ARTICLES AND ADVERTISING FOR THE MARCH-APRIL ISSUE IS **FEBRUARY 10, 2005**

The advertisement rates are as follows. Please make checks payable to India Association of Indianapolis.

	<b>one issue</b>	<b>six issues</b>
Full page	\$300.00	\$1400.00
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IAI is not responsible for ad formatting and misprint. Please provide pre-formatted ad to our publisher and verify ads prior to print by request. Business Card size advertisements will be provided free to Non-Profit Sister Organizations.

Set of Mailing Labels Printed - \$150, Mailing List on Disk \$1000

## Bangalore 2004: Impressions of an ex-resident

By Melkote Ramaswamy, Ph. D.

*The author was born and educated in Bangalore and has a Ph. D. from Johns Hopkins University. For the last 24 years, he has been residing in the United States. The impressions being shared here apply with some minor changes to Chennai, Madurai and Hyderabad, which he also visited.)*

The last time we visited Bangalore was in 2000, Nowadays, there are direct flights to Bangalore from Chicago and New York offered by Lufthansa and Air India, highlighting Bangalore's emergence as an international destination.

We chose to fly Northwest even if it meant changing planes and airports in Mumbai because Air India does not offer pre-assigned seating and Lufthansa fares are generally higher. Although we had over two and half hours break in Amsterdam in between planes, by the time we got through security, it was time to board the plane. Earlier, we used to have enough time to go to the lounge and have a cup of coffee or do a little browsing.

The first thing that caught my eye as we landed in Mumbai was the prominently displayed ISO 9000-2000 Certification sign, perhaps an indication of quality improvements in services and facilities. The expanded airport is comfortably air-conditioned and operations have become more efficient. Restrooms have touchless electric dryers obviating the need for paper towels.

Jet Airways-Northwest's Indian partner—made the transfer of luggage seamless. The 90-minute flight to Bangalore was remarkable in many ways compared to similar flights in the USA. Even before the Jet Airways Airbus A-320 took off, we were given thick, cold towels, refreshing in topical country after the grueling 10-hour flight from Amsterdam. We were then served Masti brand Buttermilk—labeled as India's ethnic drink—flavored with fresh ginger. This was followed by satisfying and tasty vegetarian snacks (we discovered later that even for short-flights such as from Hyderabad to Chenna, you get sumptuous snacks—a stark contrast to domestic US flights which serve nothing). In addition, each passenger had at least one newspaper on his seat

Bangalore Airport also carried the ISO9000-2000 sign similar to Mumbai's. I have not seen such certifications of US airports. Thanks to Jet Airways efficient handling, our luggage arrived in tact and in no time. In both Mumbai and Bangalore. Jetways were conspicuously missing. We had to take a bus to and from the terminal. At Bangalore airport, taxis are conveniently available to various destinations through Government's pre-paid service.

Airport security is tighter than in the US. All checked-in baggage is x-rayed. And every passenger is searched.



Ladies go through a separate, screened area and are searched by women guards (a cultural thing). Further, baggage on transfer flights requires that the passengers identify the baggage prior to being loaded on to the connecting flight.

Bangalore Autorickshaws (3-wheelers) now have radios. Most of them run on cooking gas that produces hardly any significant emissions. Side curtains would help protect passengers against wind and rain.

We learnt that all vehicles are required to undergo emission tests every six months, are subject to random check, and are fined for non-compliance...

Police direct traffic at intersections wearing masks. Traffic lights are timed. Violators are noted and tickets are mailed to their homes. Two wheelers make up the bulk of the traffic. I saw one two-wheeler carrying an entire family of 4, I could not believe a woman carrying a few months old baby in her lap and driving a scooter. Helmets for drivers and passengers are not mandatory but could save lives.

Malleswaram, at one time a quiet northern extension, is now a city in itself, with everything available. Traffic is so heavy that it is impossible to cross even one way street such as Margosa Road at 8<sup>th</sup> Cross. The city can use at least 500 traffic lights and a thousand 4-way stops. Several TV channels are available and FM Radio is becoming popular with cars and autorickshaws.

Highrises are becoming a norm everywhere. In our neighborhood in Malleswaram, there was hardly a single high rise (defined as at least 3-stories) years ago. Now almost every house in the neighborhood has been torn down and replaced by high rises with very little spacing all around. This may be responsible for a definite warming trend that I noted.

*Continued on page 4*

## **The Kites That Rise the Highest Fly Against the Wind, Not With It**

In the highly competitive world of today, we strive to achieve the ultimate, to reach the zenith. We all choose our own paths and our own desires, and it is these decisions that ultimately make us succeed in our quest to unravel our destiny. But it is those who make their own path and not just follow in the footsteps of others; or in other words, those who march to their own beat; are those that ultimately rise the highest.

There are two kinds of people in our world. The first kind comprises of those who follow the roads carved out by persons long ago. These are the people who play it safe, or to put it more liberally, who trod on established paths where they are unlikely to encounter much difficulty. The other kind consists of the people who are more adventurous in their outlook. They are the ones who carve out a road of their own, encountering difficulties unheard of before, and finally reach their zenith with sheer hard work and perseverance. These are the people who are awed and revered, respected and admired by all of us. These are the people who rise the highest. Nobody remembers followers, whereas leaders are never forgotten.

Volumes have been written about the ease of following a path that has already been etched in stone, but brave is the traveller who walks even if the night is dark, a storm is soaring high and there are no road maps. It just takes a guiding light and the will to soar high. It takes courage to answer a call; it takes courage to give your all; it takes

courage to be true; and it takes courage to be successful.

Motivational Gure Shiv Khera once said “Winners don’t do different things, they do things differently”. Indeed, the successful man doesn’t achieve something out of the ordinary. He just finds out an innovative method of achieving his goal, which later becomes a guiding light for those trying to do the same.

Sometimes, when you are in a dilemma, and two roads lead to the same goal; one is safer, the other is laden with dangers and you see all your contemporaries taking the easier, safer route, it is perhaps difficult not to be tempted to do the same. But that’s the moment, when one needs to weigh all pros and cons and decide. It could be the dangerous route, that no one has tread before; but if a gut feeling says that this is the route that will lead to the destiny — then you need to break away from everybody and everything and doggedly pursue the new path.

The kite that rises the highest flies against the wind, not with it. In other words, successful men are those who encounter hindrances by choosing to be unorthodox and innovative. As the lyrics of the song go:-

You’ve got to march to a different drummer  
 You’ve got to march to a different beat  
 If you want to be your own person  
 You have got to be Unique.

### **Bangalore 2004: Impressions of an Ex Resident**

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*Continued from page 3*

More and more people and families are eating out. Darshinis (stand and eat) and other hotels are always crowded.

Janata Hotel in Malleswaram is so much packed in the evening that an equal number of customers are made to wait outside. The food is good and cheap and customers do not seem to mind waiting.

Pizza is no longer the monopoly of chains such as Pizza Hut. Native versions of pizza are springing up and consist of a small Indianized pizza for Rs 10, a fraction of Pizza Hut prices. Customer lines run into the middle of the streets, adding to the already existing congestion. My wife waited for nearly 20 minutes to get the pizza and she raved about the taste. Pizza Hut has nothing to worry since it caters to the elite looking for ambience.

KC Das, our favorite restaurant on St Marks Road, has expanded in size and continues to offer an exotic menu and maintain quality. Unlike other restaurants, they serve Kinley bottled water to all customers at no charge.

The Majestic area reminds one of New York’s Time Square with people streaming in and out at all times, even late at nights, mostly due to the large number of cinema houses.

Hotels still use newspaper for food packaging (carryout of idlis/dosas/upma, etc.). Banana leaf has been replaced by plastic liners. Napkins, soap and paper towels are usually not available. Milk and water come in pouches as well as bottles. Locals are aligning with foreign tourists in carrying bottled water.

Talking of hotels, many allow 24-hour check-out, instead of 4 PM check-in and noon check-out, which is common in the US.

*To be continued in the next 2 issues. The full article can be viewed at our Website*

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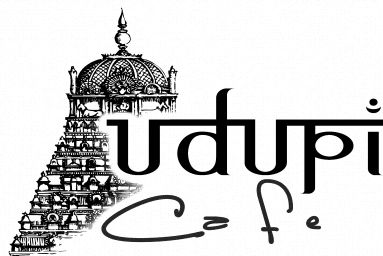
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**This mail is with regard to Bharati Vol. 28 No. 6 (pages 14-15) "The mystery surrounding a desi name" by Ram S. Ravindran.**

Desi stereotyping and self-denigration makes us no different than our American friends stereotyping Asians. American stereotyping comes out of ignorance and can be excused, but this article by the learned Editor of Bharati -What to say? Criticisms and commentaries pave way to constructive discussion, but close-ended unsubstantiated statements are not of much help.

I must admire the abilities of Ravindran to 'guess' one's height, skin color, facial features, food likes and dislikes, how he will treat his wife and so on.. just by hearing their last name. Short of having supernatural powers, I don't think I can guess a person's height let alone about how he would treat his wife based on the person's last name. Even the over-usage of the common term "desi" throughout the article makes it so repugnant and denigrating. I found the language of the article very disturbing.

Contrary to the claims in the article, there is no dearth of Indian literature and movies where an Indian from one part of India lives in another part. Not stopping there they have even taken Indian intermingling abroad. I think a reality check is what is needed. One on hand ridiculing Americanized short names, the author suggests assuming ourselves and naming our kids with two-syllable names just for the ease of our American friends. Bravo!! If Ramaswamy wants to be called Ram (first name and swamy middle name) - fine, but call me adamant - I'll stick to mine.

Signed  
A south Indian whose wife is a Dandia dancing Gujarati.  
Venkataraman Sriram

**Reply by Ram Ravindran**

*Bharati welcomes comments from the readers. Sometimes the true intent of the article gets misinterpreted by some readers. I am glad I had a fruitful and satisfactory exchange of views with Sriram.*

***Happy Holidays and a Wonderful New Year!***

May you all be blessed with good health, happiness and all the things you wish for in the upcoming year! *Bharati* welcomes articles from all of you. Let your articles be of general interest. Please don't send articles published in trade journals. Let your writings have YOUR words and thoughts in it. We would like to publish articles on our life here, our adjustment to American way of life, on our traditions, the changes we undergo, the interesting things about inter-cultural adaptations, the way we raise our children, our view of America and India. Let us share our experiences with one another.

Let us give more of ourselves to our association and to the larger community we live in the upcoming New Year.

Cheers  
Editor



**Membership Application for the year 2005 (January-December)**

Grand Patron \$250

Patron \$125

Family \$25

Individual \$15

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to serve on the following committees to benefit our community.

Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Social \_\_\_\_\_ Youth \_\_\_\_\_ Fund Raising \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I would like to donate following dollars to help our community: The amount is tax deductible.

\$50 \$100 \$200 \$300 \$500 \$1000 \$\_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE MAIL CHECK TO:**

**FOR GRAND PATRONS AND PATRONS**

India Association of Indianapolis, c/o **Kanchana Ishwar**, 1845 Knaphill Court, Carmel, IN 46033 • 848-9630

**FOR FAMILY AND INDIVIDUAL**

India Association of Indianapolis, c/o **Sumit Thaker**, 6223 Weller Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46268 • 317-297-9470

# BHARATI भारती

India Assn. of Indianapolis, P.O.Box 19191, Indianapolis, IN 46219-0191

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## IAI BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairman: Subhash Mahajan .....	317-823-8032	2002-2005
V.Chairman: Debasish Roychowdhury ...	566-0935	2003-2006
Secretary: Archana Thaker .....	317-297-9470	2004-2007
Treasurer: Kanchana Ishwar .....	317-848-8943	2005-2008
Jt. Treasurer: Uday Murthy .....	317-585-1093	2003-2006
Members: Rajesh Kher .....	317-585-0979	2004-2007
Satish Calcuttawala .....	317-496-0538	2004-2007
Kiran Adhlakha .....	317-908-5166	2004-2007
Niranjan Pati .....	317-818-9011	2004-2007
Ajai Chaudhary .....	317-705-0278	2004-2007

## ICC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Administrator: Krishna Dasari..... 317-514-5260

## IAI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President:	Haresh Gangwani .....	317-815-1235
Vice President:	Krishna Dasari.....	317-514-5260
Secretary:	Rohit Dalmia .....	765-532-4737
Treasurer:	Soni Dhesi .....	317-786-8518
Joint Treasurer:	Sumit Thaker .....	317-297-9470
Youth Group Advisor:	Sunil Mohandas .....	317-846-6884
Joint Secretaries:	Amit Chatterjee .....	317-872-4780
	Chandra Anand .....	317-574-7957
	Manoj Sutaria .....	317-240-2722
	Manjusha Prasad .....	317-704-6535
	Rita Devnani .....	317-573-9662

## IAI FINE ARTS COMMITTEE

Director:	Suraja Roychowdhury .....	317-566-0935
Treasurer:	M.S. Sabesan .....	317-823-8489
Secretary:	Arvind Thakkar .....	317-872-0740
Joint Secretaries:	Usha Srinivasan .....	317-848-4922
	Anushree Bag .....	317-733-1008

## YOUTH GROUP COMMITTEE

President: Shilpa Rao	Secretary: Neil Ramchandani
Vice President: Tanya Devnani	Treasurer: Lakshmi Nemani

## Fauji Veer

*Ai raat kay sitaro  
Chamko poori roshni sey  
Ujagar kardo oos path ko  
Jis pai jayen veer anek  
Yeh hain bharat ke rahnay vaalay  
Jin pai hum ko naj hai  
Yeh faulad ka seena rakhte  
Jin pai hum ko maan hai  
Jeet kay yeh sada hee aate  
Gaurav say sir sada rahta ooncha  
Yeh hain bharat vasee  
Jin ka hum summaan karai  
Marg darshan un ka karna  
Jo lot kay ghar na aayen  
Saj jaana un kay kandhon pai  
Jo lot kay ghar aajayen  
Ai raat kay sitaro  
Sada chamkna in veero pai  
Jo hain Hind kee saina  
Jai Hind, Jai Hind kee saina  
Jai Hind  
Uma Gupta*