

"She [India] has left indelible imprints on one fourth of the human race in the course of a long succession of centuries. She has the right to reclaim ... her place amongst the great nations summarizing and symbolizing the spirit of humanity. From Persia to the Chinese sea, from the icy regions of Siberia to Islands of Java and Borneo, India has propagated her beliefs, her tales, and her civilization!"

Sylvia Levi - American Historian



# The India Link

## Monthly Newsletter



Issue 3: February 2010 <http://www.india-link.org> Grand Rapids, Michigan

### From the Editor's Desk



First, on behalf of India Link, please accept my very cordial invitation to you, your friends, and families to join us at the Holi Baisakhi function on March 27th. A grand feast of fun, frolic and food awaits you.

In a previous issue of this newsletter, I surmised that the early part of 2010 will determine whether or not India Link's efforts to invite, involve, and integrate the West Michigan-based communities from Indian sub-continent in shaping India Link strategies, plans, programs, and activities have borne fruition.

Based on actual data on demographics of the program participants as well as activity contributors and planners, my considered view is that the answer to that question is in the affirmative, although the gains may need to be secured in coming months. President of India Link, has gone great lengths to make sure that the Board, as well as the functional committees include representatives from most, if not all, regions of Indian subcontinent. The current Board is much larger and far more diverse today, thanks to his vision. The makeup of the participants in the event programs is also remarkably diverse for a large credit is due to the person at the helm - Smita Chandra. My personal tête-à-tête with several community leaders confirms that there is greater level of comity on part of various communities to attend and participate in India Link programs and activities. All in all, the inclusiveness efforts seem to have yielded dividends; we await the final verdict of the Spring festival audience with fingers crossed.

Once again, I exhort you to join India Link and shape it the way you want ... this is your organization. A form is attached to facilitate your welcome into India Link or India Link Board. I am also asking, nay begging, you to send the news of interest to the people of Indian sub-continent to me ... ASAP! I need your help!

Finally, do not forget to participate in the logical puzzle - This time prize is \$10 for first three correct submissions!

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### Cheeese Time!

A little boy got on the bus, sat next to a man reading a book, and noticed he had his collar on backwards. The little boy asked why he wore his collar that way.

- The man, who was a priest, said "I am a Father".
- The little boy replied, "My Daddy doesn't wear his collar like that". The priest looked up from his book and answered, "I am the Father of many."
- The boy said, "My Dad has 4 boys, 4 girls and two grandchildren and he doesn't wear his collar that way."
- The priest getting impatient said "I am the Father of hundreds," and went back to reading his book.
- The little boy sat quietly...but on leaving the bus he leaned over and said: "Well, maybe you should wear your pants backwards instead of your collar".

## Holi-Baisakhi Cultural Evening Promises a Tons of Fun ...

If anyone ever harbored a doubt that India Link Holi Baisakhi function will be less than its previous counterparts (Diwali functions) in any way, shape or form (due to the time paucity), please dispense those doubts forthwith!! The mighty Holi-Baisakhi express is rolling on its tracks - fast, furious, and undeterred; - holding in its fold the promise of a magnificent cultural and entertainment bonanza.

While full details of the program attractions are being held close to the chest (admittedly for good reasons) by Smita Chandra who is spearheading the entertainment program, the skimpy details that have escaped guard, suggest that the program is poised to be a hit on several fronts. The entire program is thoughtfully designed to captivate the audience attention and is edited creatively but cleverly to keep the items short, crisp, and engaging.



The program is comprised of nearly twenty items - dances, songs, skits, trivia, and jokes - that are prepared with great creativity to appeal to the finest of your cultural and entertainment taste buds. The dances like Bhangra, Giddha, Holi-special, Bharatnatyam, that hail from all over India; popular songs of folklore, Bollywood, and light classical genre, as well as other items are all designed to keep you tied to the seat. However, the item that may catch your choicest fancy may be the musical Fusion item put together by Shashikant Sharma, who is well-known among Indian

circles for his musical acumen. Many instruments that hail from east as well as west, including one, I believe, from China called Pipa, are played together in harmonic unison to create an effect that may electrify your hearts. Another creative idea that may appeal to your better senses is the MC duo. A wise grandfather coupled with a cute granddaughter .. both spewing sweet, witty nothings on stage and holding you in rapt attention .. the thought itself is bound to tickle you ..

Another item of considerable value dedicated to the occasion is the magazine conceived, designed and put together by Mr. Kuldip Singh Bagga. The magazine includes articles and materials of avid interest to people of Indian sub-continent and their interface with other ethnicities and cultures. The colorful magazine, a culmination of Mr. Bagga's passion and dedication, has a judicious collection of articles, humor, satire, news, wit, and what have you ... and is a hands-down could-not-be-put-down read. One of its utility feature is the addresses of people from Indian subcontinent that reside in Grand Rapids and vicinity. This information has proven to be a major social networking tool for people and a great business tool for those seeking to boost their businesses among Indian communities.

The program also fulfills another strategic goal of India Link. The demographics of the program

artists and the and the scope of the events evidences about as diverse a reach as we have witnesses in a while. We hope that this may just be the harbinger of the ideals that we at India Link have been striving to achieve - to act as an enabler of a melting pot where all ideas that all communities from Indian subcontinent love and cherish are blended and shared. Unquestionably, a lot more remains to be done in this direction but the results so far are promising and gratifying.

We are indeed very excited about the way this function has shaped up. We hope with all the earnestness at our command that you will join us with your friends and families and enjoy the fruits of our hard work!

INDIA LINK IS ANNOUNCING THE CELEBRATION OF Holi Festival

**Holi Hai!**

Hope U have a great time!

BAISAKHI

CELEBRATIONS OF INDIA LINK HOLI / BAISAKHI 2010 SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 2010 EAST GRAND RAPIDS HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM EAST GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

## President of India Link Brings Brand New Leadership Style to Move India Link Strategically Forward ...

Mr. Satpal Makkar, the current President of India Link was featured, albeit briefly, in the previous issue of this newsletter where we essentially referred the readers to visit a website that carried a Grand Rapids Press article extolling his entrepreneurial skills that made him a very successful businessman.

In this piece, we take a look at the leadership style he has brought to bear upon the India Link operations and analyze how that style has fared in accomplishing the agenda he set forth for India Link.

Mr. Makkar's leadership modus operandi is a three-step process: (1) Identify strategic and tactical goals that India Link should pursue, (2) Create teams of dedicated people who have the expertise, dedication, and PR skills to deliver those goals, and (3) act as a facilitator and enabler rather than a top-down leader for the teams to accomplish those goals. The second step can be characterized further: Instead of picking up the team members, he merely suggests names of the people who will head various committees or functionalities (e.g., entertainment, food, etc.) and formalizes the process democratically through the

Board. Once, these committee heads are selected, he allows complete freedom for them to pick the team from within the Board or they can go outside the Board to pick the team they are comfortable with. After that his role is that of an enabler of the visions these team heads. The result is a remarkable level of motivation and a sense of personal worth on part of each of the committee head. The fact that these committee heads actualize their own vision on what they do best, work with the people they know best, creates an environment of producing high quality items that further India link goals. Since the duties and responsibilities of each committee are largely independent of others, there is little room for begrudging as each reports the progress in the monthly (soon to be bi-weekly) meetings. In rare cases, when he does have to arbitrate an issue, he speaks his mind and provides reasons. In order to accomplish some of the strategic goals, e.g., making proactive efforts to bring other, hitherto non-participating, communities to join and participate in India Link activities, he runs a separate track of meet-

ings and operations. He has enlarged the India Link board to now include leaders from other communities who have a significant say in how India link activities should be designed and shaped. This has aroused a sense of ownership in other communities. He is also actively engaged in installing a long term grass root operation where each member of India Link would have a sense of belongingness and ownership in India Link activities. In order to make India Link an all-encompassing organization, he is now planning to revisit the constitution of India Link and make sure that the heads of India Link are rotated among different communities so that all communities feel it is their organization.

Democratic underpinnings and transparency in decision-making process - two qualities of good leadership were initially brought in by Mr. Bhargava, the past president, in a noticeable manner. Mr. Makkar has retained those characteristics and superimposed upon them an autonomy-based teamwork culture which has proved quite effective as the results thus far would show.

## \*\*\*\*\* Local News and Trivia \*\*\*\*\*

(E-mail any news items to the Editor at [ashok.ak.kumar@gmail.com](mailto:ashok.ak.kumar@gmail.com) with a news item)



### GVSU Team Wins the 2nd Annual Supply Chain Challenge at MSU

A group of four students, led by Professors Ashok Kumar and Vivek Dalela of Seidman College of Business participated in the Michigan State University Supply Chain Challenge case competition on Feb. 11-12 and secured the coveted top spot in a 15-university rivalry that included some of the highest rated supply chain programs in the country. Dr. Kumar has earned numerous regional, national, and international awards for his research, teaching and professional service during his 25 years in academia. **Congratulations, Grand Valley!**

Please visit <http://broad.msu.edu/information/news/item?oid=1755> for more details.



### Mr. Sunny Dhoore Enhances Public Service Portfolio

Sunny Dhoorh, seen in the picture (2nd from left), chatting with the Hon'ble Prime Minister Manmohan Singh during the state dinner hosted by Obama Administration on November 24th, has been appointed the Vice President of the Indian National Overseas Congress for the United States of America. The position allows him to act as a communication conduit between the people of Indian origin residing in the United States and appropriate authorities in the Indian Government.

### EDITORS TRIVIA: LOGICAL PUZZLE

An intelligent young student takes up a census job in the summer. He knocks at one door which happens to be house of a professor of mathematics. After identifying himself and explaining the purpose of his visit, the following conversation takes place between him and the lady of the house:

- Student: "Madam, how many children do you have?"
- Wife: "Three"
- Student: "May I know their ages?"
- Wife: "Since I am wife of a professor of Mathematics, I am going to tell you in mathematical language. The product of their ages is 36"
- Student: "I like the idea. Well, so?"
- Wife: "The sum of their ages is the next door house number."
- Then the student goes to the next house, looks at the number and enquires after coming back scratching his head,
- "I am, I still cannot figure out..."
- Wife: "You cannot, you fool? My eldest daughter is sleeping upstairs."

Pl ease send the answer to me at [ashok.ak.kumar@gmail.com](mailto:ashok.ak.kumar@gmail.com). Only one e-mail per person. Last date: March 15, 2010. \$10 each for first three correct entries. GOOD LUCK!!! Your answer should provide the ages of three daughters and the logic for it.

### EDITORS TRIVIA: LAST MONTH

WHO IS THIS CELEBRITY?



Answer: Sachin Tendulkar.

Mythri Janardan was the only correct entry received. A beautiful check worth a mammoth sum of \$5 has been mailed to her. Maithri, thanks for being a sport and valued participant! Keep it up!!

