

"India was the motherland of our race, and Sanskrit the mother of Europe's languages; she was the mother of our philosophy; mother, through the Arabs, of much of our mathematics; mother, through the Buddha, of the ideals embodied in Christianity; mother, through the village community, of self-government and democracy. Mother India is in many ways the mother of us all".

Will Durant, American Historian



The India Link

Monthly Newsletter



INDIA LINK COMMITTEE WISHES YOU A VERY HAPPY **2010**

Issue 3: January 2010

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Grand Rapids, Michigan

From the Editor's Desk



Happy New Year, once again!

Significant efforts are continued to be expended to enlist greater support from a variety of regions and communities of Indian Sub-continent to participate in India Link activities in general and in the Spring function in particular. Besides the participation from several states of India, I am told that we have a program participant from Bangladesh as well. This is gratifying news. However, India Link office bearers should not relent until all culturally identifiable entities—communities, indeed, states, countries within the Indian sub-continent are actively contributing to the activities of India Link.

Regardless of your ethnicity or origin, I would like to exhort you to consider joining us at the upcoming Spring festival (see schedule elsewhere in this letter) not only as audience but as active contributor to the Holi-Baisakhi program. We wish to have as rich and varied a demographics as possible to underscore the all-encompassing philosophy and approach of India Link.

You will find documentation accompanying this newsletter for your enrolment as member of India Link and to serve as a potential contributor to the Spring festival program in a capacity of your choice. Please fill in the form(s) and shape the program of India Link as your own.

Finally, to arouse your interest and capture your attention, I have included a new feature—Who is this celebrity?—in this newsletter. First five e-mails providing the correct answer will be paid \$5 each by check. Sorry, I know its a chump change, but it is out of my pocket! So e-mail me the answer asap! Answer will be in the next issue. Good luck!

I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at the festival, hopefully as a stage participant.

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Say Cheeeese!

There once was a religious young woman who went to Confession.

Upon entering the chamber, she said, "Forgive me, Father, I have sinned."

The priest said, "Confess your sins and be forgiven."

"The young woman said, "Last night my boyfriend made mad passionate love to me seven times."

The priest thought long and hard and then said, "Squeeze seven lemons into a glass, and then drink the juice."

The young woman asked, "Will this cleanse me of my sins?"

The priest said, "No, but it will wipe out that sly smile off your face."

India Link Board Moves in Higher Gear to Host a Lively Holi-Baisakhi Function in Spring

It may be a little early to read the tea leaves as to how the Holi-Baisakhi function will finally shape up, there is no doubt that a lot of effort is being expended in making this function a memorable one. Having missed its staple annual function—Diwali—last year, India Link Committee seems to be in an over-compensation mode. Smita Chandra, a dancer-par-excellence, a coveted fixture in virtually all community events, and an accomplished organizer of many cultural events, is spearheading the organization of the Holi-Baisakhi function in Spring.

The theme of the function is "Celebrate India". The broadness of the theme underscores the integrative and inclusive nature of the entertainment treat that awaits the audience. "We are going to have a fun-filled trip to India right here in Grand Rapids! Lilted music, exotic dances, dazzling costumes, glittering fashions, and brain-teasing quiz; woven in an ornately-worded presentation by graceful emcee(s) is bound to touch rock you and tickle you," says Smita.

Elaborating on her approach and philosophy of organizing the function, Smita said, "I think of the

U.S. as a fabric, intricately woven with variety of cultural threads that encompass the entire globe. Organizations like India Link provide us and our kids the opportunity to showcase the entire gamut of traditions, heritage and rich culture that India has to offer. Such functions also serve an important purpose—they keep our younger generations connected and involved with Indian Diaspora and her rich treasures of arts and culture."

From the fleeting glimpse that was provided into the program details, artists from several states, as well as other regions of Indian subcontinent are putting together items that will enthrall and entertain the audience. The picture will be clearer by the time next issue of this letter comes out.

Smita has a message for all Indophiles: Please join us. Get involved. Participate in shaping of this program. It is YOUR program. own it!! Smita can be contacted on phone (616) - 977-9908 and via e-mail: amitsmita@comcast.net .



God's Kitchen Campaign Comes to Fruition

As reported in previous two issues, Richa Kanvinde spear-headed the God's Kitchen Fund Drive with an end goal to raise a sum of \$1000 on behalf of India-Link. In a short time window that commenced on November 24th and ended December 22nd, a sum of \$1062 was raised. The funds were donated to the God's Kitchen on December 22nd thus bringing the India Link fund drive to a fruitful completion. Of course, this would not have been possible without the tremendous support of the community. On behalf of India Link, Richa extends her cordial "thank you" to all the donors for their generosity and looks forward to the same goodwill in future. Great job, Richa ji!

The Annual Pongal-Sankranti Function Rocks and Tickles the Audience



Classical Dance
Om Namoh Shivaya

On January 16, an audience of approximately 400 was served with a feast of variety entertainment during the annual Pongal-Sankranti function that demonstrated the overflowing talent, dedication, and organizing prowess of the South Indian community now firmly ensconced in Grand Rapids and its vicinity. The program committee comprised of 20 members worked incessantly and diligently since early November to put together this 21-item entertainment bonanza that included folk, pop, and classical group dances, popular ethnic and Bollywood songs, and two skits. Exhaustive preparation and thoughtfulness lurked in abundance behind each item. The evening belonged to the children and youth who put together a vast majority of the program items that kept audience spell-bound. Yet, items from "grown-ups" also were "class acts" and left an indelible impression on "grown-up" audience. Congratulations to Sridhar and the team for a wonderful show! Keep'm coming!!



Kee Kee Kee Kee
Ennutha Haaraona, a skit

7.0 Earthquake devastates Haiti; causes untold misery and carnage

Shed a tear for Haiti! The entire India Link community grieves and commiserates with Haitians who suffered a catastrophic loss of human life and material on January 12th as the monstrous earthquake, measuring 7.3 on Richter scale, hit Léogâne, approximately 16 miles west of Port-au-Prince, the capital of Haiti. It claimed over 175,000 lives, made over a million people sick, rendered nearly 500,000 homeless, and razed thousands of houses and buildings, including, the Presidential Palace, the National Assembly Building, and the Cathedral, to the ground. Our hearts go out for the bereaved and the forsaken. In terms of lives lost, this earth quake was one of the deadliest ever.

Many organizations are accepting donations that will be efficiently disbursed to Haiti with minimal wastage: Clinton Bush Haiti Fund and International Red Cross, and Partners in Health are leading the charge for donations. Google-search their websites or just text 90999 or 20222 for \$10.

***** Local News *****
(E-mail the Editor at ashok.ak.kumar@gmail.com with a news item)



President of India Link, Mr Makkar, Gets Kudos for his Entrepreneurial Skills and Contributions in GR Press ...



"A Fulbright scholar and former college professor, Satpal Makkar chose not to go back to a university in India...." To read on this remarkable story in GR Press of January 10th, please follow the link:

http://www.mlive.com/business/west-michigan/index.ssf/2010/01/column_immigrants_entrepreneur.html

This website may well be worth your time... Explore it NOW!!



www.dhartionline.com Dedicated to address Indo-Pakistani community, this is a unique website that will provide you with everything from local events, Bollywood movies, free advertising, jobs, travel, news, and wedding resources to the Yellow Pages.

EDITOR'S TRIVIA

WHO IS THIS CELEBRITY ?

(1) Recognize this well-known celebrity, (2) Send me an e-mail with your address and the full name of this celebrity.

I will send you a check for \$5 if your e-mail is one of the first 5 e-mails with the correct answer.

- Answer in the next issue.

India Link needs you ... your ideas, your imagination, your time, your participation, and above all your presence ... E-mail Smita at amitsmita@comcast.net or India Link at Indialink2010@gmail.com TODAY. This is your program, Contribute to it! Shape it!! Own it!!!

