



This is our ninth edition of Sandesh (the e-newsletter for IAN) for 2014. Preparations are in full swing to organize the biggest event of the year - Rhythms.

An Executive Committee (EC) meeting was held on the 21th of this month to discuss Rhythms and any other fund raising opportunities. A separate meeting was held on Sep 3rd to kick-start the planning for Rhythms.

Finance committee Chairperson's Message:

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to write the editorial for Sandesh on behalf of Finance committee. We have had a successful year so far by conducting many events while staying within our budget. IAN's grand event of the year, Rhythms, is around the corner and the preparations are in full swing.

This is the time of year IAN's looks for community support to fulfill its yearly donation commitments (\$500 each) to the following organizations:

- ❖ **Food Bank of Omaha**
- ❖ **Blind Foundation of India**
- ❖ **Child Saving Institute**
- ❖ **Hindu Temple Omaha**
- ❖ **Scholarships for Indian Students**
 - **UNO**
 - **Creighton**
 - **UNMC**
 - **Bellevue University**

All these commitments cannot be met without the generous support of our community. We kindly request your generosity either by becoming a Rhythms sponsor: Grand \$1000, Platinum \$500, Gold \$200, Silver \$100, or by donating any other amount that fits your budget. You may also elect to have your donation go to a specific organization/program (from above) of your choice.

You may donate by going to IAN's website, www.IndiaAssociationofNebraska.org or by mailing your check (payable to IAN) to Venu Potineni, 652 S HWS Cleveland Blvd, Elkhorn, NE 68022.

Please encourage all of your friends to join IAN and also attend **Rhythms 2014**, the **cultural waves of India**, to make it a successful event. Please visit IAN's website www.IndiaAssociationofNebraska.org for membership and event information.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members who supported our **Stephen center's Feed the Hunger** monthly program (see Appendix A for sponsors) and other IAN programs monetarily and/or by contributing their valuable time. I have no words to thank the volunteers, who contribute countless amount of their personal time for supporting community activities. Thank you one and all

For more information or if you have questions, please call [402-968-3691](tel:402-968-3691) or email info@IndiaAssociationofNebraska.org.

Best Regards,
Venu Potineni
Treasurer & Finance chair, India Association of Nebraska

INDIA ASSOCIATION OF NEBRASKA

Highlights:

Here is our planned budget for the year 2014:

Event/Program	Planned Expenditure
Republic Day celebration	\$500.00
NSF Bee competition	\$1,000.00
Health Fair	\$100.00
Monthly Feed the Hunger program	\$2,000.00
Independence Day celebrations	\$500.00
Rhythms celebrations	\$6,000.00
Student Scholarships	\$2,000.00
Monetary donations - Charity	\$1,500.00
Hindu Temple Omaha facility use	\$500.00
Administration	\$500.00
ACT/SAT mock test	\$200.00
Long Range planning fund	\$10,000.00
Emergency Response reserve	\$2,000.00
Total	\$26,800.00

Appendix A: Feed the hunger sponsors list

Month	Sponsor
Jan 2014	Dr. Alekha Dash
Feb 2014	Mr. Sundar Chokkara
Mar 2014	Mr. Jay Tedla
Apr 2014	Kannada Koota
May 2014	Mr. Prasad Dharmavarapu
Jun 2014	Dr. Babu Guda
Jul 2014	Mrs. Nina Mote
Aug 2014	Mr. Srinivasarao Mallipudi
Sep 2014	Mr. Tirumal Chengalsetty
Oct 2014	Mr. Vijay Varma Pakalpati
Nov 2014	Mr. Satish Mukteneni
Dec 2014	Mr. Venu Potineni

Spotlight:

STATE: Rajasthan

Rajasthan is situated in the north-western part of India. It is India's largest state by area and eighth largest by population. Rajasthan means "the land of kings". Rajasthan is dominated by the inhospitable Thar desert. It is bordered by Punjab and Haryana to the north, Pakistan to the west, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh to the south and Uttar Pradesh to the east.



Jaipur, is both its capital and largest city. Some of the other large cities in Rajasthan are Jodhpur, Kota, Bikaner, Ajmer and Udaipur. Hindi is the primary language, while Rajasthani and Punjabi are also spoken by a minority. Some well-known personalities who hail from Rajasthan include business magnates like Birla, Mittlas, and Bajajs, famed mathematician Brahmagupta ghazal singer Jagjit Singh, Hindu mystic poet Mirabai and Maha Rana Pratap Singh. Agriculture is the primary industry. Rajasthan is the largest producer of edible oils in India and the second largest producer of polyester fiber.



The main religious festivals are Depawali, Holi, Gangaur (worship of Gauri) and Sankranthi (harvest festival) as Hinduism is the main religion. A desert festival is held during winter and celebrated with lots of color, dancing and singing

Rajasthan is culturally rich and the traditions reflect the ancient way of life. The Ghoomar and Kalbeliya dances have gained international recognition. Folk music and Kathputli (string puppets) are also a vital part of the culture. Bright colored attire with mirror and embroidery work symbolizes the vibrant state.



Some note-worthy places to visit include the ruins of the Indus Valley civilization at Kalibangan, the Dilwara Temples at Mount Abu, the Jantar Mantar, the Hawa Mahal and sand stone houses in Jaipur, the forts in Jaisalmer and Keoladeo National Park near Bharatpur (bird sanctuary). It is also home to two national tiger reserves Ranthambhore in Sawai and Sariska in Alwar.

Rajasthani cuisine is influenced by the war-like lifestyle and arid conditions. Dal (lentil curry) - Bati (baked balls of wheat dough) - Churma (sweet) is a very popular dish. Bikaneri Bhujia (crispy gram flour starter), Mirchi bada (chili cutlet) and Ghevar (sweet) are popular snacks.



IAN's Event Calendar for 2014

Event	Date	Location	Time
Solo Singing Competitions	1/26/2014	Hindu Temple Social Hall	2:30 pm to 4:30 pm
65 th Republic Day	1/26/2014	Hindu Temple Social Hall	5:00 pm to 7:00 pm
NSF Bee contests (Spelling, Math, Geography and Vocabulary)	4/26/2014 4/27/2014	UNO Mammel hall	8:00 am to 5:00 pm 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Health fair	05/10/2014	Hindu Temple Social Hall	8:00 am to 12:00 noon
ACT/SAT panel discussion	8/17/2014	Hindu Temple Social Hall	4:00 pm to 5:00 pm
68 th Independence Day	8/17/2014	Hindu Temple Social Hall	5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Health Fair	8/31/2014	Hindu Temple Social Hall	8:00 am – 11:00 am
Flu Shot day	Oct 2014	Bal Vihar classrooms	TBD
Rhythms of India	11/15/2014	Westside High School	3:00 pm – 8:30 pm
ACT/SAT mock tests	Dec 2014	Hindu Temple Social Hall	TBD

Please see next page for more details regarding Rhythms.

Appeal:

Please do renew your membership or signup for life membership if you are not currently life members. Membership can be obtained by filling the info at <http://www.indiaassociationofnebraska.org/Membership.aspx> and the payment is made securely thru PayPal. Your membership is tax deductible as IAN is a non-profit organization.

If you would like to volunteer for any upcoming IAN events please email info@indiaassociationofnebraska.org

If you are interested in contributing articles or have suggestions for Sandesh please email us at publications@indiaassociationofnebraska.org

Like IAN : <https://www.facebook.com/pages/India-Association-of-Nebraska/148111838633174>

THANK YOU

Articles gathered and edited by Smitha Amar and Malathi Balu

"Rhythms, the cultural waves of India "

This year, we are planning a program with **three main objectives**:

1. *Develop a diverse cultural program.*
2. *Keep within time constraints.*
3. *Be inclusive of all families.*

In keeping with these objectives, we have developed some broad **Cultural Program**

Guidelines:

- -We highly encourage at least **one traditional dance from each state**.

It can be purely a traditional non-filmy dance (folk), or a Bollywood song that focuses on a traditional dance of India.

- -It can be a pure Bollywood Dance on **decent songs !!!**
- -To give opportunity to all the participants there will be **No Solo Performances**.
- - Participants should be at least **5 years or older**.
- **JUNIORS**- Kids between the ages **5 yrs- 9 yrs** should have a group of minimum **6 members**
- -**SENIORS**- kids **above 10 yrs** should have minimum **4 kids** in the group. (the idea is to be inclusive)
- **ADULTS**-Adults **18+** We encourage more adult participation. (at least **3 Participants in a group**).
- - **Max 5 minute duration for each song**. This will ensure a broad variety of programs
- -Please send the item details ASAP, all the **songs will be considered on first come first serve basis**.

- -There will be **No Repetition** of songs, to provide variety to the audience.
- -In order to give opportunity to all enthusiastic participants, **each participant can perform not more than two items.**

*****ALL the participants should take the IAN membership.**

All the money collected will be used for charity and emergency responses.

All the yearly memberships taken in 2014 will be VALID.

Memberships taken during previous Rhythms WILL NOT be valid.

Membership can be taken online by clicking this link

<http://www.indiaassociationofnebraska.org/Membership.aspx>

Last day to Register OCT- 25th

Please send your song details by Oct 25th to swathiharitha@gmail.com.

*****Please send your request in the following format:

***Song name:**

***Movie name:**

***Participants full names:**

***Age and age group:**

***Song duration:**

***Choreographer's name:**

***Event coordinator's name:**

***Event coordinator's email address:**

***Event coordinator's contact number:**

We will **have one stage rehearsal** before the cultural program.

If you have any inputs, ideas, and suggestions to strengthen this cultural program, please do offer the same. We welcome all suggestions from you. Please spread the word to friends and family.

Best Regards,

IAN Cultural Committee

INDIA ASSOCIATION OF NEBRASKA

Appendix B: Complete IAN Committee 2014

President	Mr. Joseph Selvaraj
President Elect	Mr. Srinivasarao Mallipudi
Secretary	Mr. Sundar Chokkara
Treasurer	Mr. Venu Potineni
Past President	Mr. Muralidhar Chintapalli
Permanent Member	Dr. Syed Mohiuddin
Permanent Member	Dr. Alekha Dash
Member 2014	Dr. Amarnath Natarajan
Member 2014	Mrs. Asha Deshpande
Member 2014	Mr. Gowridhar Madu
Member 2014	Dr. Meera Varman

Committee	Chair	Co-chair	Members
Banquet	Mr. Kantha Raju Etigi	Mrs. Deepa Kashyap	
Community Service	Dr. Alekha Das	Mr. Srinivasarao Mallipudi	
Cultural	Mrs. Swati Ponnappalli	Mr. Gowridhar Madu	Mr. Arun Prasad Mrs. Keerthi Ranjith
Education	Dr. Babu Guda	Mr. Tirumala Chengalasetty	Mr. Shankar Kuppa
Emergency Response	Mr. Sunil Singh	Mr. Muralidhar Chintapalli	Mr. Ravi Kumar Mr. Rony Kappuzha Mr. Shivashankar Yadav Mrs. Swarna Gopi Mr. Venkat
Finance	Mr. Venu Potineni	Mr. Pradeep Somavarapu	
Information Technology	Mr. Ishroop Aneja	Mr. Raj Deeduvanu	Mr. Jay Pawar
Long Range Planning committee	Dr. Sanjay Singh	Dr. Phani T Adidam	Past Presidents
Membership	Mr. Arul Nambi	Mr. Srinivas Nimmagadda	Mr. Ratish Gopal
Publications	Dr. Rakesh Singh	Dr. Vimal Kandasamy	Mrs. Anjana Mukherjee Mrs. Bhanu Sethupathy Mrs. Devi Kotaru Miss. Kinjal Vyas Mrs. Latha Kishore Mrs. Malathi Balu Mrs. Mrudula Potineni Mrs. Ramanpreet Aneja Mrs. Smitha Kizhake
Nomination	Mr. Muralidhar Chintapalli		
Public Relations	Dr. Meera Varman	Mr. Gowridhar Madu	
Schools/Universities	Mr. Sanjeevi Mariappan	Mr. Prasad Dharmavarapu	High School/University Students
Sports	Mr. Krishna Ravipati	Mr. Dilip Bhavani	
Youth	Mr. Venkat Kiran	Mr. Venkat Perla	
Volunteer	Mr. Vijay Anand	Mr. Vijay Varma	Mr. SriHarish Rajakumar