



This is our fourth edition of Sandesh (the e-newsletter for IAN) for 2014. The first quarter of 2014 has been eventful. The 4th Executive Committee (EC) meeting was held on Apr 20th at the Hindu temple. The main topic of discussion was the upcoming Bee contests. Other agenda items that were discussed included the SAT/ACT mock testing and Health fair.

Education committee Chairperson's Message:

The IAN education committee of was formed in 2012 and strives to organize a number of activities for kids of Indian diaspora in Nebraska. The primary goal is to encourage, educate and provide opportunities to school going kids to help them overcome inhibitions and incite a competitive spirit that will help them excel in their future. Some of the activities organized by the educational committee over the past three years are

1. **Bee Contests:** This event is co-organized with the North South Foundation and is typically run in the last weekend of April.
2. **IAN Career Summit:** This event is intended to expose kids to different career paths that are possible after high school graduation. Speakers representing different disciplines were invited to encourage and guide middle school and high school students. This event was conducted in 2012, but later was discontinued due to a low turnout.
3. **Student Scholarships:** IAN sponsors three student scholarships annually for qualified students of Indian origin at Creighton, UNO and UNMC. Each award is for \$500. Winning students from Creighton and UNO are selected based on GPA, while awardees from UNMC are selected based on their research credentials using an application process.
4. **ACT/SAT Mock Testing:** Starting in 2014, we plan to conduct mock testing sessions for ACT/SAT. The main goal is to provide a 'real-time' experience for 7th through 10th graders to take the test and know where they stand. Details of this test are being chalked out and an announcement will be sent to the community soon with final dates.

The education committee is run by passionate group of volunteers that include students, parents and dedicated IAN committee members. We would like to thank all of them for their time, efforts and intellectual contributions, which have made these events possible.

Best regards,
Babu Guda
Chair, Education Committee, India Association of Nebraska

Highlights:

EVENT: Bee's (Spelling, Math, Vocabulary and Geography)

The IAN in association with the North South Foundation (NSF) organizes the regional Bee contests for the Omaha chapter. NSF is a non-profit organization that supports the Bee contests organized for children of Indian origin, throughout the US. Through this event, this year, over \$7000 was raised. These funds will go towards scholarships for meritorious, economically under privileged children in India. This sum is the equivalent of ~ 25 educational years.

This year was the third annual regional bee contest to be held in Omaha. The first Spelling and Math Bee contests were held in 2012 with 65 participants. In 2013, the contests were expanded to include the Geography bee and the participant number increased to 125. This year the Vocabulary bee was added and the participant number increased further more to 200. Winners who have qualifying scores have the honor of competing in the National contests. Some of the winners from last year attended the National Bee contest. This year the finals will be held in Dallas, TX on Aug 16th and 17th.

The contestants ranging from grade 1 – 8 were tested in either the Junior or the Senior category. The contests were held over the course of two days at Mammel Hall in UNO. The Spelling and Vocabulary bee were held on 26th and the Math and Geography bee were held on the 27th. At the end of the contests the award ceremony was organized to congratulate the winners and participants alike.

This years winners in each category is listed below

Competition and division	First Place	Second Place	Third Place
Junior Spelling Bee	Sankar Ramamurthy	Eswar Ramamurthy	Siri Doddapaneni
Senior Spelling Bee	Deeksha Sridher	Anusha Deshpande	Vijay Menon
Junior Vocabulary Bee	Sankar Ramamurthy	Eswar Ramamurthy	Ninad Rao
Intermediate Vocabulary Bee	Jason Selvaraj	Srijan Mallina	Shashank Potineni
Math Bee Level 1	Advika Namasivayam	Keerthana Nair	Pranav Chennadi
Math Bee Level 2	Raimee Seal	Anusha Deshpande	Sankar Ramamurthy
Math Bee Level 3	Jason Selvaraj	Shashank Potineni	Naman Nisheeth
Junior Geography Bee	Aman Andukuri	Eshaan Giri	Vaishvika Balamurugan
Senior Geography Bee	Deeksha Sridher	Pranav Krishna Ramasubramaniam	Anishasu Pradhan

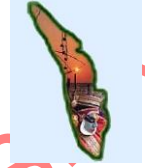
For more information, please visit

<http://www.indiaassociationofnebraska.org/ianspellingbee2014.aspx>

Spotlight:

STATE: Kerala

Kerala is situated in the Southwest of India. It is the 12th largest state by population and is sandwiched between the Arabian Sea and the Western Ghats. It has a multitude of rivers rising from the Western Ghats including Periyar, Bharathapuzha and Pamba. Kerala is bordered by Karnataka to the north, Tamil Nadu to the east, the Indian Ocean to the south and the Arabian Sea to the west. Due to the abundant natural beauty and greenery, Kerala is also known as “Gods own Country”.



Thiruvananthapuram is the capital city, while Thrissur, Kochi, Kozhikode and Kollam are the large cities. Malayalam is the primary language. Some famous people who hail from Kerala include Swathi Thirunaal, Raja Ravi Varma, K. J. Yesudas and P. T. Usha. Pepper and natural rubber are the two main sources of income followed by coconut, tea, coffee, cashew nut, spices and fishery. Popular for its spices, Kerala attracted traders as early as 3000 BC. This vibrant trade route is also believed to be the origin of foreign settlers like Muslims, Christians and Jews. Kerala has the lowest positive population growth and has both the highest literacy rate and the highest life expectancy in India. Among most descendants a system of traditional matrilineal inheritance and succession is prevalent and the lineage is traced through the female line.



The culture of Kerala is composite and cosmopolitan. Onam is the main festival celebrated by all Malayalees irrespective of religion. Pookalams (large flower patterns) adorn house porches and snake boat races (Vallam Kali) are a part of the celebration, which culminates in a mouth-watering feast (Sadhya). Thirissur Pooram (a Temple festival) is celebrated with the holy flag hoisting and procession of richly caparisoned elephants with a parade set to the accompaniments of the Panchavadyam (orchestra of 5 musical instruments). Kalaripayattu (a martial art) is regarded as the mother of all martial arts in the world

The classical dance forms of Kathakali and Mohiniyattam originated here. Other forms include Koodiyattom, Thullal, Krishnanattam and Theyyam. Margamkali is popular among the Christians and Oppana among the Muslims. Sopana sangeetham was a classical music form developed in the Temples.



Kerala is an important tourist attraction both nationally and internationally with many beautiful beaches – Kovalam, Varkala, backwaters – Alappuzha and Kumarakom, and tropical lush greenery and hill stations – Wayanad, Munnar. National Geographic's travellers list Kerala as one of the 10 paradises of the world and among 50 must see destinations of a lifetime.

The cuisine has both vegetarian and non-vegetarian delicacies. Rice is the staple diet. Some popular items are Puttu (steamed rice flour), Kappa (tapioca), Aapam (similar to Dosa) and Fish curry, Aviyal (mixed vegetable curry in coconut base) and Banana chips.



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	UNO Mammel hall	8:00 am to 5:00 pm
	4/27/2014		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 mock tests	Jun – Jul	Hindu Temple Social Hall	TBD
Odissi Performance	07/26/2014	Hindu Temple Social Hall	TBD
Sports Day	Jul	Multiple locations	TBD
Solo dance competitions	Aug	Hindu Temple Social Hall	TBD
68 th Independence Day	Aug	Hindu Temple Social Hall	TBD
Health Fair	8/31/2014	Hindu Temple Social Hall	TBD
Flu Shot day	Sep or Oct 2014	Bal Vihar classrooms	TBD
Rhythms of India	TBD	TBD	TBD

Please see next page for further details about the Health Fair

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 Mrs. Smitha Amar and Mrs. Malathi Balu



and

India Association Of Nebraska

Invites you to a **FREE** Health Fair
Saturday, May 10
8 am to 12 pm
Hindu Temple Social Hall 13010 Arbor St



- ◆ **BMI Screening**
- ◆ **Blood Pressure Check**
- ◆ **Blood Sugar Check**
- ◆ **Cholesterol Check**
- ◆ **Dental Screening**
- ◆ **Preventive Care Counseling**
- ◆ **Information on New Insurance Marketplace**
- ◆ **Make On-Site Appointments**

About OneWorld

OneWorld Community Health Centers, Inc., provides culturally respectful, quality health care with special attention to the underserved. OneWorld bases fees on a sliding scale based on the individual's ability to pay. OneWorld accepts all major insurance plans including Medicaid and Medicare.

Appendix A: 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