



This is our twelfth and final edition of Sandesh (the e-newsletter for IAN) for the year 2014. The publication committee is proud to have published a new edition of Sandesh every month this year. All the published editions can be found at <http://www.indiaassociationofnebraska.org/Sandesh.aspx>

Every edition of Sandesh was comprised of three parts – an editorial, a highlight and a spotlight. The editorial featured messages from various committee chairpersons and it provided some information about the committees' that comprise IAN and their function. In the highlight section, one event organized by IAN that month was featured and we aimed to provide a glimpse into the event. In the spotlight section we also worked on presenting the State series, which was aimed at being informational and provided some little known facts about many of the Indian states. This final edition contains a quick recap of the events in the year gone by and the operating budget for 2014.

On behalf of all of us at the editorial desk, we would like to extend our deepest thanks to all the committee chairpersons, who took time out of their busy schedules to put together editorials for each month. We would also like to thank the president Mr. Joseph Selvaraj for his constant support and availability to help.

President's Message:

Dear Friends,

Namaste! It is hard to believe that our team has completed the yearly term and contributed their best to the community. Together we did it! We are happy to announce that this year, we are adding \$15,000 to the long term funds of IAN.

This year with the relentless effort of many dedicated volunteers, great sponsors and supporters, we were able to conduct many events and we received excellent feedback from our members. The continuous support we got from our community is commendable. We couldn't have done this without your support and co-operation. Our sincere thanks to each and every one of you!

We are deeply saddened by the loss and damage caused by the floods in Jammu & Kashmir and by the cyclone in Andhra Pradesh. We raised around \$10,000 for both events and donated the funds to various non-profit NGO organizations.

The final EC meeting was held on Dec 28th followed by the annual General Body meeting, featuring presentations by the treasurer and secretary. This was followed by election of members who will serve in 2015. I congratulate the new Executive Committee. I am confident that the new team will do their best, and as members of this organization we must support them as needed.

Thank you once again, for helping the India Association of Nebraska in serving our community.

We wish you an excellent year ahead. Happy New Year 2015!

Joseph Selvaraj
 President, India Association of Nebraska

| 2014 Income Statement - IAN | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| 2014 Beginning Balance | \$3,109.36 | Operating balance carry forward from 2013 |
| Income | | |
| Charity Food Donation | \$1,755.81 | Stephen center food donation |
| NSF Bees | \$444.75 | NSF Mugs sales 28 at \$5 + food sale |
| Membership | \$3,190.00 | |
| Rhythms - Sponsorship | \$18,647.00 | |
| Rhythms - Tickets | \$4,167.45 | |
| Rhythms - Food | \$905.00 | |
| HudHud fundraiser | \$4,257.00 | |
| Total Income | \$33,367.01 | |
| Expenses | | |
| Administration | \$291.72 | |
| Charity - Food Donation | \$1,643.26 | Stephen center food donation |
| Scholarships | \$1,500.00 | |
| Monetary donation | \$2,000.00 | |
| NSF Bees | \$1,072.82 | |
| Repblic Day | \$480.72 | |
| Health Fair | \$45.90 | |
| Independence Day | \$490.11 | |
| Rhythms | \$6,046.71 | |
| HudHud Lunch expense | \$568.06 | |
| Total Expenses | \$14,139.30 | |
| HudHud Relief fund distribution | \$3,688.94 | Check to be issued |
| 2014 Ending Balance | \$18,648.13 | |

Highlights: RECAP of 2014

- IAN activities for 2014 began with the second annual Solo singing competitions followed by the 65th republic day celebrations on the 26th of January.
- After a brief two-month hiatus, the IAN activities resumed with the Bee contests held in conjunction with the North South foundation. This was our third annual Bee contest, which featured more categories and saw an all time high participation of 200 contestants.
- This year two health fairs were organized. The first one was held in May, in association with One World Omaha, and provided free screens for blood sugar and cholesterol for uninsured parents who were visiting or under-insured community members.
- After a quiet summer the events resumed with a bang with the 68th Independence celebrations. This event was preceded by the first ever ACT/SAT panel discussions. This was a good forum for both the children and parents to gain more information about the content of the tests and preparation strategies.
- The second Health fair was held at the end of August.
- Rhythms, the biggest cultural event organized by IAN was held in November and as usual attracted a large crowd (700), despite the snowstorm that was brewing outside.

Apart from all the cultural, educational events and health fairs, IAN is also involved in many humanitarian projects both inside and outside the country.

- Every month IAN sponsors a Feed the hungry event at St. Stephen's center. The response this year was overwhelming with sponsors for all the months being filled up after just one announcement. Thank you all for taking the time to help.
- Another component added to IAN last year was the Emergency response Committee. They have been called upon twice this year to serve the community. In these unfortunate situations it is heartwarming to see the community come together and make us feel we are not so far from home!
- IAN also provides \$500 to the food bank and \$500 scholarships to deserving students – one each from Bellevue University, Creighton, UNMC and UNO.
- In India, IAN supports the blind foundation of India, which conducts screening, treatment, surgeries and also provides kits for blind children. IAN also supports Nanhi Kali, which helps provide education to economically disadvantaged girls in India for 10 years.

IAN has had a busy and productive 2014 with multiple diverse events, many of which were organized for the first time. The Indian community in Omaha is continuously growing and each event is now becoming larger, with greater participation from the community. Please continue your support towards IAN in the upcoming years.

All of these events and projects will not be possible without the vast amount of time and energy invested by the volunteers and organizers. IAN is an all-volunteer organization and cannot function effectively and efficiently without the input, support and hard work of the community. Please consider donating your time or effort to make it a better and more successful entity.

Wish you all a very happy 2015.

Spotlight:

STATE: West Bengal

West Bengal is situated in the eastern part of India. It is India's 14th largest state by area and fourth largest by population. It is bordered by Sikkim, Bhutan and Nepal to the north, Bihar and Jharkhand to the west, Odisha to the south and Assam and Bangladesh to the east. The state stretches from the Himalayas in the north to the Ganges delta in the south.

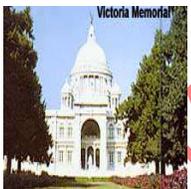


Kolkatta is both its capital and largest city. Kolkatta, also known as the “cultural capital of India” is also the third largest urban agglomeration in India. Some of the other large cities in West Bengal are Howrah, Durgapur, Raniganj, Haldia and Jalpaiguri. Bengali is the primary language. Some well-known personalities who hail from West Bengal include authors like Rabindranath Tagore, Sarojini Naidu and Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, movie stalwarts like Satyajit Ray, Kishore Kumar and Mrinal Sen and reformists like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Subhash Chandra Bose and Swami Vivekananda. Agriculture is the primary industry and West Bengal is the 6th largest contributor to India's net domestic product.



Durga Puja is most fervently celebrated festival. Other festivals celebrated include Poila Baisakh (Bengali New Year), Rath Yatra (Chariot procession), Buddha Purnima (Buddha's birthday), Eid-ul-Fitr (breaking of month long fast) and Christmas.

West Bengal has a rich cultural heritage. Bengali folk dances draw inspiration from tribal dances and Chau is a unique tribal martial mask dance. Folk music includes Baul, Gombhira and Bhawaiya. Bengal was also the harbinger of modernism in fine arts.



Some note-worthy places to visit include the Sunderbans (world's largest mangrove forest), the Cooch Behar Palace (designed on the model of Buckingham Palace), the Hazar Duari Palace, Darjeeling (hill station), the Jaldapara National park (largest population of one-horned rhinoceros), the Howrah bridge (world's busiest cantilever bridge), Victoria memorial, Shantiniketan (university town founded by Tagore) and Katra masjid.

Bengali cuisine consists primarily of rice and fish. Sweets occupy an important place in their social ceremonies. Sarse Ilish (fish curry in mustard sauce), Beguni (eggplant fritters) Roshogolla (cottage cheese balls in sugar syrup) and Sondesh (milk and sugar sweet) are very popular dishes.



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 |
| Rhythms of India | 11/15/14 | Westside High School | 3:00 pm – 9:00 pm |

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

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 Muktineni |
| Dec 2014 | Mr. Venu Potineni |

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 |