



INDIA CULTURE CENTER

January 1st 2012
Volume 3, Issue 1

TARANG ICC NEWSLETTER

Serving Indo-American Community of Greater Houston

We want deeper sincerity of motive, a greater courage in speech and earnestness in action.

— Sarojini Naidu

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

ICC wishes you Peace & Prosperity for 2012.

नये साल की हार्दिक शुभकामनायें !

ICC NEWS

ICC General Body Meeting passes the By Laws on December 26th
ICC- India House signs landmark MoU on January 3rd. ICC Board unanimously elected New Executive Team 2012 on January 4th.

The newly elected board members are: President Rajiv Bhavsar, Vice President P V Patel, Secretary Jasmeeta Singh, Treasurer Harshad Patel.

For more information check www.icchouston.org and our next month Newsletter



Executive Board and Election Officers

GENERAL BODY MEETING

The 38th Annual General Body Meeting of India Culture Center, Houston (ICC) was conducted on December 11th Sunday at India House. The General Body Meeting was presided by President Col Raj Bhalla who addressed the gathering of over 80+ attendees. In his remarks he spoke about year round events of ICC. He spoke about " the India Fair, Hasya Kavi Sammellan, Leaders Conference, India Fest, Eid Milan Celebrations, Diwali Celebrations being the Signature events of ICC which were well attended, well appreciated and supported by the Community."

He also spoke about the partnering events with various other Associations which were significant and in continuing tradition of ICC. He also updated the General Body about the Relief efforts and funding made by ICC for a cancer battling student, the Japan Tsunami victims and also the victims of Wild fire of Bastrop. He ended his message with some guided

pointers to the New Board of 2012 so that the oldest premier organization in Houston can revitalize.

Thereafter the Elections to the Board were conducted. The Election Commission officers were Dr Satish Jhingran, Koshy Thomas and Ashok Dhingra. There were 15 contestants who ran for the 10 available positions for the Board at Large. There were 57 valid votes cast and after conducting the elections very smoothly and professionally; the Election Officers announced the results. The following Directors were elected for 2 year term: Rajiv Bhavsar, Ramesh Cherivirala, Sridhar Dadi, Manisha Mehta, Hemantkumar Patel, Devesh Pathak, Nirmala Vale and Mahesh Wadhwa. The following Directors were elected for 1 year term: Prasad Kalva and Nirmala Keshu Patel. For more details visit www.icchouston.org

ICC AND IHA - HINDI DIVAS

The purpose of the event was to celebrate 'Hindi Divas' in a way that Hindi is promoted...the culture is kept alive through language.

Some of these poets/ reciters were from a past era when they used to do such things in town although on a much smaller scale(usually at someone's home). They seemed to be thrilled with this revival and chance to read their poems. Our annual event Kavi-sammelan when we invite three prominent poets from India is scheduled to be on 29th April. Sangeeta Pasrija is the President of Houston Chapter of International Hindi Association since January 2007. Swapan Dhairyawan joined as the very first Life member and on the Board since the inception of ICC-IHA joint venture. Bobby Singh is a member of our board. Rafi Ansar and Rajiv Bhavsar are our team members from ICC (coordinators provided by ICC since 2008).

There were approx. 130 attendees. The certificates was awarded by the Past President of ICC Dr. Satish Jhingran and current President of Pratham, Houston Mr. Swatantra Jain.

We would like to say that for the first attempt of bringing local poets on stage it was very well liked program. I've taken many phone calls since then asking and requesting to do such events more frequently. There is a sect of hindi lovers who would really like to revive our culture through the medium of language by hosting such kavi-goshthis locally. As the Chair of IHA Houston, it is my responsibility to promote Hindi and so it was one attempt to do so in celebration of "Hindi Divas".

India Culture Center Houston (ICC) and International Hindi Association (IHA) Houston Chapter celebrated Hindi Divas on December 9th Friday at Madras Pavillion, Sugar Land. "Kavita ki Shaam"- an Evening

of Poetry was attended by over 125 Hindi lovers. This was the first such attempt by ICC & IHA to put up a Local talent Hindi poetry recitation day. "Hindi" language was adopted in the Indian Constitution as a National Language and September 16th is celebrated world wide as "Hindi Divas"

Program coordinators were Sangeeta Pasrija & Swapan Dhairyawan. Sangeeta gave the Welcome Address and the brief of the IHA Houston Chapter. Swapan Dhairyawan did the Vote of Thanks. Sumptuous Dinner to attendees was catered between 7 to 8pm. Program started at 8.10pm with local 12 poets .

Participants were Om Gupta, Usha Mehra, Krishan Sharma, K D Upadhaya, Nausha Asrar, Sangeeta Pasrija, Fateh Ali Chatur, Sanjay Sohoni, Swapan Dhairyawan Arun Prakash, Ramesh Dwivedi & Dr Kamlesh Lulla. This team of dozen poets kept the audience in awe for almost the next 2 hours with their Poetry skills.

The poets presented Bhakti ras, Shringar ras, Veer ras and Vyang ras poetry. The oorja (energy) level at the event was throughout maintained by the quick witted Emcee Abha Dwivedi. At the end the poets were awarded certificates. Dr Satish Jhingran & Swatantra Jain did the honors. ICC and IHA have been conducting Annual Hasya Kavi Sammellan since 2008. The next Annual event is scheduled for April 29th Sunday 2012 at India House. The program was appreciated by all and was a resounding success.



Local poets with ICC and IHA Board Members

INDIA FAIR

INDIA CULTURE CENTER, HOUSTON
IN ASSOCIATION WITH
CONSULATE GENERAL OF INDIA &
MAJOR INDO-AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS
PRESENT
INDIA FAIR 2012
63RD REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATION
Innovative INDIA
Dedicated to the Seniors
SUNDAY JANUARY 29, 2012 11:00 AM TO 7:00 PM
NEW STAFFORD CIVIC CENTER
10505 CASH ROAD, STAFFORD, TX - 77477
FREE ENTRY | Flag Honoring & Parade | FREE PARKING
College Dance Competition | Cultural Program | Commercial Bazaar
Awards | Silent Auction
President: Col. Raj Bhalla 281-265-4650
Event Chair: Rafi Ansar 281-531-5350
Co-Chair: Veena Ponnaganti 281-323-9515
Booths: Charlie 832-423-7979
Devesh 832-419-7576
Cultural Program: Swapan Dhairyawan 281-582-0348
Shridhar Dadi 281-217-9736
Sponsorships: Rajiv Bhavsar 281-217-7330
Ramesh Cherivarala 281-295-2726
Dance Competition: Veena Ponnaganti 281-323-9515
Nimmi Vaie 832-855-9696
Souvenir: Harshad Patel 832-259-2178
WWW.ICCHOUSTON.ORG

India Fest 2012 Academics, Leadership and Community Service Awards Nomination Form

Deadline January 15th, 2012

Return nomination form, the nominee's resume and supporting documents, to: Hemant Patel at hempat19@sbcglobal.net

India Culture Center is recognizing and awarding students from high school and college, of the Indo-American community for their excellence in academics, leadership, and community service at the India Fair 2012.

Individual Nominated for Award:

I _____, would like to nominate _____ (name of student) for consideration of an award at the India Fair 2012.

I am _____ (relationship to nominee e.g. teacher/parent/friend)

The student is currently enrolled at _____ (name of school/college).

Student's full name: _____
Student's Age : _____
Student's Address: _____
Student's Telephone Number: _____
Student's E-mail Address? _____
Student's Year in School/College: _____
Student's School/College Registrar's Telephone: _____
Other pertinent Information: _____

Signatures of Nominating Individuals:

1. _____

Note: Nominations must reach us by **January 15, 2012**.
ICC Awards committee reserves the right to validate credentials and supporting documents. The Award committee's decision is final. The AWARDS COMMITTEE MEMBERS offer no assurance that any of your nominees will be amongst those selected to be the final honorees at our India Fair 2012.

ICC will be celebrating the 63rd Republic Day on January 29, 2012. The event will be dedicated to senior citizens. It will begin at 11 am and end at 7 pm. There will be many exciting cultural programs, an awards ceremony for high school students and other attractions. The main evening program will be a college dance team competition. Some of the best teams in Texas will be there; come to support them!

FIS-18TH ANNUAL MLK PARADE

The Foundation for India Studies (FIS) is pleased to announce our participation in the annual Martin Luther King Jr. 2011 Parade, which will take place on January 17th. The event will be televised live on Channel 13 with an expected viewership of 5 Million.


FIS being an educational body is particularly interested in supporting the 2011 MLK parade organization because its theme this year high lights the importance of bridging the gap in higher education. FIS would be grateful, if you could publicize this event among your friends and members of your organization that you belong to and encourage them to join us in the parade which would take place under the banner of the Foundation for India studies(FIS).

We would hope to see a turn out of at least one hundred walkers from our greater Indo-American community. There is no fee for individual volunteer walkers to participate, which has already been paid for by FIS.

All that is required of the volunteers is to show up in warm clothing at the assembly point on the morning of January 17th. at 9.am. and participate in the colorful parade waving hands to and receiving accolades from the spectators which would last for about 2.5 hours on a 2.5 mile Parade Route. [Further details are given below].

Please let me know if you and your organization can help FIS with volunteer walkers to participate in this great annual event. We are not asking for money.
If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me .

Krishna Vavilala
713-795-5169



FOUNDATION FOR INDIA STUDIES
A Tax exempt registered 501 (c)3 non-profit organization, EIN No. 51-0566369
[Info@foundationforindiaudies.org](http://info.foundationforindiaudies.org)
713-795-5169 / 713-743-4689

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Date: 12-28-2011

You are cordially invited to join us in the **18th Annual MLK Grande Parade** to honor the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, who adopted Mahatma Gandhi's principles of non-violence for his civil rights movement and created lasting bondage between India and America.

M.K.Gandhi Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The parade theme is "Empowerment through Education"


"The 18th Annual MLK Grande Parade is considered the third largest parade in U.S. behind the Rose Parade and the Macy's Parade. It is expected to be watched by 300,000 spectators and will have T.V. viewing audience of more than 4,000,000 through broadcast partnerships with NDTV- New York and UNIVISION TV."

Date: January 16, 2012 (a public holiday)
Time: 10:00 AM
Check-in Time: 8:00 AM
Check-in Point: Houston Community College Central Campus-1300 Holman Street- Houston, Texas-77004
Parade Route: Originate In Mid-Town @ San Jacinto St & Elgin Street N/B On San Jacinto To Webster St
Length of Parade Route: 1.0 Mi
Duration of Parade: 2:0 Hrs
Parade route map: Go to - http://www.mlkgrandeparade.org/grande_parade.html

FREE parking on Crawford and Webster streets. Dress according to the weather.

Twenty five (25) T-shirts will be given away on a first come first served basis.


To join in the parade, please call Krishna Vavilala, 713-795-5169 or Email to: info@foundationforindiaudies.org / or call event Chair, Bashist Sharma (281) - 893-8644 or Email to: bashist@sharmalaws.net before 13th January, 2012.



Shraddhanjali
January 28, 2012
3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Mahatma Gandhi:
Father of Modern India · Apostle of Peace
Personifies the Universal Values
of Peace, Non-Violence, Truth and Love

Chief Guest:
Honorable Consul General of India
Shri Sanjiv Arora



The event is organized by Mahatma Gandhi Library in collaboration with Unity PeaceMakers. For more information please contact Sanjay Jain 281-565-5248, Dr. Manish Wani 713-829-6976, or Unity of Houston at 713-782-4060.

You are cordially invited to observe the Annual

Shraddhanjali
a Memorial Service to honor


Mahatma Gandhi

Saturday, January 28, 2012

3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Unity of Houston - Pyramid Hall
2929 Unity Drive - Houston, TX 77057

www.gandhilibrary.org
www.unityhouston.org



SHRADDHAANJALI

We can continue our collaboration with ICC to bring all organizations together in honoring and remembering Gandhi ji at the same time learning from 's values. It will be our pleasure to have you and members of ICC also join with their families in this event.

The program is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 28th, from 3:30pm -5:00pm to be held in entirety at Unity of Houston, (2929 Unity Drive). The theme is sharing of experiences about Gandhiji's teachings and values.

For Sponsorships**Contact:**

Swapan Dhairyawan
281-382 0348

Veena Ponnaganti
281-323 9515

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Veena Ponnaganti

Rafi Ansar

Swapan Dhairyawan

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.ICCHouston.org

Disclaimer: ICC Houston retains the right to edit articles, news as necessary to correct errors, grammar and to comply with space constraints.

Good Morning Houston

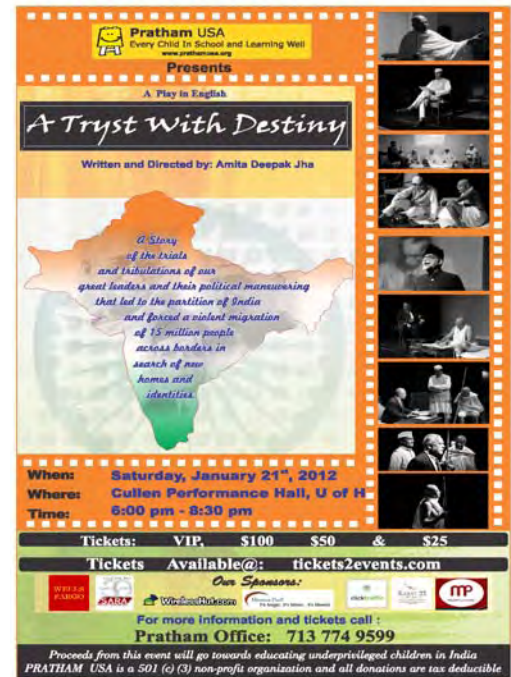
Listen to us on the Radio

At 1110 AM

Every Sunday 11 – 12 AM

PRATHAM USA

Pratham presents a play in English, A Tryst With Destiny. The event is on January 21st, 2012. Proceeds go towards educating underprivileged children in India. Refer to the flyer to the right for further details.

**ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION...**

ICC (India Culture Center) was incorporated in June 1973. ICC is a non-profit and secular organization, serving as a coordinating link among all major Indian Organizations and Individuals of Indian origin living in the Greater Houston and surrounding areas, on issues of common interest and concern.

ICC Annual Events

- Celebrate India's Republic Day
- Celebrate India's Independence Day
- Celebrate Birthday of Mahatma Gandhi
- Hold an ICC Day and/or ICC Family Night
- Conduct a variety of Sports activities
- Grant awards and scholarships in various areas of achievement
- Leaders Conference involving all major Indo-American organizations

Conduct Kavi Sammelan to promote Hindi, the National Language

ICC Special Events

- Raise Funds for charitable purposes
- Host Indians dignitaries and India's supporters and well-wishes
- Hold Special Theme Events, Festivals and Parades to promote goodwill and understanding between India and America
- Undertake Special to promote India and Indians
- Publish a periodic Newsletter or e-magazine to disseminate information of common interest to the community
- Conduct Voter education and Registration activities
- Participate and encourage participation in the mainstream American Community

Hold Workshops such as Job Fairs, Immigration, Safety and Security Seminars for the benefit of the Community

INDIA CULTURE CENTER

Houston, Texas

Non-Profit Organization

Fed ID: 23-7310597