



BHARATI
August 2005

The long hot days of summer are finally behind us. Hopefully, we will not have to deal with 114 degree temperatures until next July. Alas, the joys of living in Arizona!

Well, India Association has had a very eventful first six months. Although we started the year on a sad note with the tsunami destroying so many lives, it did not deter our will to continue with our programs. On a positive note, this tragic event did bring the community together in raising funds to help victims of this disaster in India. We are happy to report that the first and bigger installment of funds has already been distributed to various charities to help the needy in India.



The January India Nite event was a big success with over 700 people attending the show. The highlight of the evening was the recognition of all the past Presidents of India Association on stage. February saw us participate in the Indian Festival sponsored by the Indo American Foundation. This event was a huge success drawing record crowds. Subsequently, in March, we had our Holi Picnic at South Mountain Park. Good food, color, and games were enjoyed by all, thanks to our major sponsors Mr. and Mrs. Kuldip Verma. India Association also participated in the Asian Festival held in April and the community wide Charity Walk that was held in May to raise money for the local shelters in the Phoenix area. Additionally, India Association also made a cultural presentation at the Anthem Public Library in June as part of our diversity education program. So as you can see, we have had quite a busy year so far and thanks to all our volunteers who helped make all these events a success.

Now with fall around the corner, its back to school for the youngsters, and for us folks at India Association, it marks the resuming of our programs and activities after the lull of the summer months.

We have a packed fall schedule starting with the Independence Day celebrations on Saturday, August 20, 2005 at Dobson High School in Mesa. With all the numerous entries that we have received, it surely promises to be a very entertaining show with colorful dances and songs performed by our talented children and others. This year for the first time, we will also be having a Poster Contest for children in conjunction with the India Nite Independence Day celebrations. Please encourage your children to participate as we will be giving out cash prizes and certificates. India Nite will be followed by our flagship event the "Discover India Diwali Festival" that will be held on Sunday, Nov 20, 2005 at the Heritage Science Park in downtown Phoenix. On behalf of the Board of Directors of India Association, I would like to invite each and every one of you to attend and be a part of this project. Together, we can put up a great event to showcase India's rich culture to the people of Phoenix.

GREETINGS!

None of these programs would be possible without your help. I would like to thank each and every one of you for your support and look forward to your continued participation in all of our programs.

We hope to see you at all our future events listed below.

Sincerely,

Ms. Kalpana Batni

President, India Association of Phoenix

India Association - 2005 Board of Directors:

Ms. Kalpana Batni – President

Ms. Chitra Muralidhar – Vice President

Ms. Sangita Gulati – Secretary

Mr. Shekhar Patwardhan – Treasurer

Ms. Arthy Kumar – Cultural Director

Ms. Jyoti Bhave – Membership Director

Drs. Nagesh & Chitra Gidwani – Public Relations Director

Ms. Alika Kumar – Director at Large

Dr. Sujatha Krishnaswamy – Webmaster

Ms. Pamela Kharbanda – Youth Director

India Association of Phoenix – 2005 Fall Schedule

Please mark your calendars for our upcoming events:

Saturday, August 20, 2005 – Independence Day Celebrations at Dobson High School, Mesa

Saturday, August 20, 2005- Poster Contest Award Presentations

Saturday, Oct 8, 2005 – Visa Camp – location TBD

Sunday, November 20, 2005 – Discover India Diwali Festival, Heritage Science Park

[India Association Offers New Benefit to Members](#)

India Association is happy to announce a new benefit available to its members. Starting summer of 2005 India Association will serve as a fiscal agent to enable members to get the discounted non-profit rate for auditorium rental provided the event organized is a non-ticketed cultural event. This benefit is offered only to members of India Association. Individuals applying for this benefit must comply with certain conditions listed in the contract form. Contract forms are available on our website. Please visit our website at: www.azindiaassociation.com for more details.

TSUNAMI DONATION DRIVE UPDATE

On behalf of the Tsunami Fundraising Committee, we would like to thank everyone for their generous donations to the Tsunami Disaster Relief Fund to help the victims of the Tsunami disaster in India. To date the drive has raised over \$80,000 thanks to the generous contributions made by members of the Indian community, the community at large, and the diligent efforts of the various associations/organizations representing the Indian Diaspora in Phoenix.

After due deliberations, the members of the Fundraising committee decided to distribute the money to NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations) involved in the

relief/rebuilding efforts in the affected areas. It was also decided that the money will be released in two phases – with Phase I funds distributed in Spring 2005, and Phase II funds distributed in the summer of 2005. Accordingly, a task force was set up to research the various NGOs and make recommendations. The task force has identified some beneficiaries for distribution of Phase I funds. A total of \$50,000 will be distributed by April 15, 2005 to the following beneficiaries, and the balance funds will be distributed in July of 2005 pending further research of NGOs.

PHASE I Beneficiaries:

- Hindu Mission Hospital, Chennai: \$10,000- Funds to be used towards purchase of an ambulance/mobile medical unit to replace one washed away by the tsunami. The ambulance/mobile medical unit provides free medical care to the poor in the rural areas of Chennai, which includes many tsunami victims.
- AID India, Chennai: \$10,000- Funds to be used to rebuild homes of fisherman in Tamil Nadu
- ASHA for Education: \$10,000- Funds to be used to purchase books and supplies lost by coastal schools in Tamil Nadu
- BAPS: \$10,000- Funds to be used to rebuild homes in Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- \$5,000 for relief efforts in Andhra Pradesh
- \$5,000 for relief efforts in Kerala

We would like to acknowledge all sister organizations/associations who helped in this fundraising drive namely (in alphabetical order):

AZIndia .com, Arizona Malyalee Association; Hindu Temple of Arizona; India Association of Phoenix; Indo American Foundation of Arizona; ISKON; Orissa Association; Tamil Sangam; and Telugu Association.

We regret we cannot list names of all the numerous individual donors, but sincerely thank all the members of the community who have donated and helped us in this effort.

Thanking you for your support.

Sincerely,
Ms. Kalpana Batni & Dr. Vasu Atluri
Co-Chairs Tsunami Fundraising Committee



