



BHARATI
January 2006

GREETINGS!

On behalf of the Board of India Association of Phoenix, I would like to wish you all a Very Happy New Year and hope you have a wonderful year. I am honored and humbled to once again serve as President of this prestigious organization. I would do my very best to ensure that this organization serves the needs of the community, and at the same time acts as an ambassador to represent our community to the people of Phoenix.

As you may be aware, India Association, established in 1974, is the oldest non-profit organization of Indian heritage here in the Valley. It has had great community leaders as it's Presidents and it is indeed a privilege and honor to follow in their footsteps. I am confident that with the hard working and able team of Directors that we have on our Board, we would be able to serve the community well. India Association is an umbrella organization representing all the sister associations of Indian heritage in the valley, with a mission to increase awareness of India's rich and diverse culture and serve as a liaison to integrate the community of Indian origin with the community at large. Thus, all our programs such as India Nite, Discover India Diwali Festival, and Visa Camps are aligned with this mission of serving the community. The success of these programs depends entirely on the support from our members and the community; we urge you all to join us in our efforts. Together we can better serve the needs of everyone.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing Board of Directors: Ms. Chitra Muralidhar, Mr. Shekhar Patwardhan, Ms. Arthy Kumar, Ms. Pam Kharbanda and Ms. Sujatha Krishnaswamy for their hard work and dedication in serving the organization. I would like to commend them on doing such a wonderful job of serving the organization for the past three years. We wish them all the very best in all their future endeavors.

Once again, I would like to thank you all for electing me as President of India Association and look forward to your continued support in making this a successful year for all of us. We hope to see you at all our future events.

Sincerely,

Ms. Kalpana Batni

President, India Association of Phoenix- 2006

India Association - 2006 Board of Directors:

*Ms. Kalpana Batni - President
Ms. Alika Kumar - Vice President
Ms. Jayanthi Vijay - Secretary
Ms. Anu Kalyanam - Treasurer
Ms. Sangita Gulati - Cultural Director
Ms. Jyoti Bhave – Membership Director
Ms. Leena Raval – Public Relations Director
Mr. Narendra Baweja – Director at Large
Mr. Mayur Jain – Webmaster*

India Association of Phoenix – 2006 Agenda

Please mark your calendars for our upcoming events:

***Saturday, January 21, 2006** – India Nite Republic Day celebrations, Paradise Valley High School, Phoenix*

***Sunday, March 26, 2006** - Holi Celebrations at South Mountain Park, Phoenix*

***Saturday, August 19, 2006**- India Nite Independence Day Celebrations, Dobson High School, Mesa*

***Sunday, November 19, 2006** – Discover India Diwali Festival at the Heritage & Science Park, Phoenix*

Visa Camp – October 2006 – TBD

TSUNAMI FUNDRAISING 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. This fundraising drive 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 for immediate relief, and Phase II funds distributed before the end of 2005 for permanent relief. Accordingly, a task force was set up to research the various NGOs and make recommendations. The task force identified the following beneficiaries for distribution of Phase I and Phase II funds. A total of \$50,000 was distributed in May of 2005 to the Phase I beneficiaries

PHASE I Beneficiaries:

a. Hindu Mission Hospital, Chennai: \$10,000- Funds were 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 included many tsunami victims.

b. AID India, Chennai: \$10,000- Fund used to rebuild homes of fisherman in Tamil Nadu.

c. ASHA for Education: \$10,000- Funds used to purchase books and supplies for schools in Nagapatnam, Tamil Nadu.

d. BAPS: \$10,000- Funds used to rebuild homes in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

e. SEWA INTERNATIONAL: \$5,000 for relief efforts in Andhra Pradesh.

f. AMRITHA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES: \$5,000 for relief efforts in Kerala.

Phase II Funds:

The balance of \$33,492 was distributed to the following beneficiaries for permanent relief:

a. ASHA FOR EDUCATION: \$13,792 for reconstruction of a school building in Akkarapettai, Tamil Nadu.

b. INDIAN HERITAGE RESEARCH FOUNDATION (IHRF) PRAMARTH NIKETAN: \$19,700 for construction of a medical center.

Once again our sincere thanks to all those who contributed to this deserving cause. We would not have been able to accomplish this without your help.

Sincerely,

Dr. Vasu Atluri
President, Indo American Foundation of Arizona

and

Kalpana Batni
President, India Association of Phoenix
Co - Chairs Tsunami Fundraising Committee

KATRINA FUND RAISING DRIVE

We are happy to report that the Katrina Fundraising drive to help victims of Hurricane Katrina that hit the Gulf Coast of America in 2005 raised over \$5,000.

A check in the amount of \$5,092 was presented to the American Red Cross in December 2005. We would like to thank all those who donated generously towards this cause. We would not have been able to do this without your help.

Discover India 2005 a veritable success!

The fourth annual Discover India 2005 festival held at the Heritage Square on Sunday, November 20, 2005 turned out to be an out-and-out success. Over the last three years, India Association of Phoenix has seen its signature event become an overwhelming success, growing steadily each year. The number of participants including vendors has seen a dramatic increase. This year we had 68 vendors, compared to 45 last year. In addition, community participation and enthusiasm has grown and the overall feedback has been very positive. The hard work has paid off as attendance has almost tripled. This year, it was estimated that over 6000 people attended the festival.

Our heartfelt thanks go to our supporters. This year Mr. B.S. Prakash, Consular General of India, San Francisco region toured the event and was very pleased. Mr. Phil Gordon, Mayor, City of Phoenix surprised us all when he arrived and walked through the park and appreciated the festival. Other esteemed guests included Mr. Dennis Burke, Chief of Staff for Governor Janet Napolitano; Mr. Paul Luna, President, Valley of the Sun United Way; and Mr. Cody Williams, President, Black Chamber of Commerce.

The Cultural Program was a resounding success. Performances reflected the diversity of Indian culture in various forms beginning with Hindustani music. The feature program, the Yakshagana, a dance drama from Karnataka directed by Chandra Aithal was elaborate and very well received. Other classical performances included: Mohiniattam, Kuchipudi, Bharat Natyam, Kathak, Samarpanam, Odissi, and a wide array of film-music based dances and folk dances. Rounding of the music and dance were group songs, Indian jazz, Costumes of India parade, and some contemporary music/dance performances. Visitors to the event found the programs very informative, colorful and festive.

Demonstrations – The cooking demonstration was a very popular event indeed. The demonstrated recipes for butter chicken, methi thepla, uppuma and tandoori chicken had over a hundred people for each demo. Samples and recipes were handed out and it generated lots of interest and questions. The cooks were very enthusiastic as well creating an engaged audience.



The wedding enactment conducted in Gujarati style was a much anticipated and enjoyed event. People waited patiently during set-up and there were numerous requests for information. The enthusiasm of the participants was contagious and shared by the audience.

Although the festival guests seemed to enjoy all aspects of the festival, special commendation must be given to the variety and popularity of the hands-on demonstrations by Neelam Deodhar which included saree draping; rangoli, bookmarks, and Indian dolls. These were awesome. The lecture series on doing business with India, Indian architecture, astrology, and karma yoga had good attendance. The Display Booth, focused on western India, was recognized by community members as the best ever and was a joint production by the Maharashtra Mandal, Gujarati Association and the Rajasthan association. Special thanks to Mr. Sardar Babar of the Pakistan Information and Cultural Organization, who loaned several antique items for display. As always, the children's activities were well – liked as were the other demonstrations such as yoga and cricket.

Looking Ahead

Overall, the community applauded the event and the hard work. Very positive feedback was received, including comments such as it was “a wonderful success in every way” or that it was “an impressive event.” It appears that “People were really having fun and were very appreciative of the organizers to put this event”;

Next year, we will focus on more seating for staged events, improving traffic flow, providing a list of activities for each booth to direct the visitors, adding associated services such as ATMs, more food booths, and resource lists. With these improvements, we are sure to reign in success again. A special thanks to everyone who participated, volunteered and for the community who supported by attending and enjoying the event. It can be summed up by the comment of one guest who said that it was not fair that we did this only once a year, they added “we want it at least twice a year!!”

**INDIA ASSOCIATION OF PHOENIX
FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF
DECEMBER 5, 2005**

INCOME

Additional Insurance from Sister Organizations:	\$ 3,375.00
India Nite January, 2005:	\$ 3,709.00
Foundation Mela/Festival:	\$ 0,421.00
Holi Festival celebrations:	\$ 2,106.00
Asian Festival:	\$ 0,100.00
Charity Walk:	\$ 0,300.00
India Nite August, 2005:	\$ 5,173.25
Visa Camp:	\$ 0,150.00
Discover India 2005:	\$11,967.10
Miscellaneous: Membership, interest:	\$ 1,248.95
Grants:	\$ 1,200.00
<u>TOTAL INCOME:</u>	<u>\$29,750.30</u>

EXPENSES:

Operating Expenses:	\$ 3,809.85
India Nite Jan, 2005:	\$ 1,747.96
Foundation Festival/Mela:	\$ 0,124.08
Holi:	\$ 2,177.93

Asian Festival:	\$ 0,000.00
Charity Walk:	\$ 0,800.00
India Nite August, 2005:	\$ 2,411.48
Discover India 2005:	\$12,475.93
Visa Camp:	\$ 0,056.77
Miscellaneous:	\$ 1,510.34
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES:</u>	<u>\$25,114.34</u>

**CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE AS OF
12/05/05:** **\$23,277.55**

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP ACCOUNT BALANCE
AS OF 12/05/05:** **\$27,920.77**

TOTAL BALANCE AS OF 12/31/04: **\$46,562.36**

TOTAL CURRENT BALANCE AS OF 12/05/05: **\$51,198.32**

NET INCOME AS OF 12/05/05: **\$4,635.96**

India Association of Phoenix General Membership Meeting
President's Annual Report and Remarks
(Ms. Kalpana Batni, 12/18/2005)

I am happy to report that we have had a tremendously successful year. 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 the contrary, this tragic event did bring the community together in a very positive way, and gave us the opportunity to work with our sister organizations to raise a lot of money for a very worthy charitable cause.

If you recall, at the beginning of the year we had set the following three objectives for the year 2005:

- 1. Increase visibility of India Association in the community*
- 2. Introduce community service activities*
- 3. Increase participation and attendance at all our events*

Thanks to everyone's volunteer efforts, I am happy to state we met all of the above objectives through the various programs we had throughout the year. Please permit me to briefly recap them here so we can all cherish what we have jointly accomplished!

Our First Objective was to "Increase visibility of India Association in the Phoenix Area"

Here are some of the activities we did towards meeting this objective:

- Diversity presentations on Indian culture were made at the Anthem Public Library and at the Tempe Head quarters of Federated Corporation*
- Increased publicity for the Discover India Festival with both television and newspaper coverage of the event resulting in increased attendance*
- Participated in the Annual 3-day Arizona Asian Festival in downtown Phoenix*

Our Second Objective was to "Introduce Community Service Activities"

We got involved in a lot of new activities as a result of this objective, such as:

- Held a back to school donation drive to benefit children at the Thomas J. Pappas School for the homeless in August*

- Participated in the Charity Walk organized by the Indo American Foundation to raise funds for local shelters. Additionally, India Association donated \$500 towards the cause. Collected funds were distributed to the following shelters:
Maggie's Place – a home for unwed mothers, Vincent Du Paul's shelter for the homeless and the Arizona South Asians for Safe Families- a support group to help victims of Domestic Violence in the South Asian community. All of the above organizations were invited and participated in the 4th Annual Discover India Festival to promote their respective organizations*
- Donated funds to the American Red Cross to help victims of the Katrina Disaster*

Objective No 3: Increase participation and attendance at all our events

Actions taken towards meeting this Objective were:

- Increased number of performances at both the January and August India Nite events resulting in increased attendance.*
- Introduced special awards to recognize members of the community, both children and adults, for their outstanding achievements and contributions*
- Held a poster contest for children in conjunction with our August India Nite celebrations*
- Made every effort to include ALL our sister organizations in the Discover India Festival with outstanding success*
- Introduced a game show "Antakshari" at the Holi picnic that attracted larger crowds to the event*

In addition to the above activities, we also co-hosted or participated in events organized by other organization, namely:

- Visa camp in association with the Indo American Foundation*
- A talk on "Investment Opportunities in India" by Mr. P.N. Vijay, noted economist from India, in association with the US India Chamber of Commerce.*

So, in conclusion, the highlights of the past year can be summarized as follows:

- **A very successful fund raising effort that brought the India Association name in front of the community at large thru TV and newspaper coverages.**
- **A very successful Discover India Diwali festival. The event saw record number of vendors, performers, and attendance. Thanks to all the volunteers who worked very hard to ensure its success. A tremendous effort that paid off.**
- **Recognition of all the past Presidents of India Association and its founding President at the January India Nite, and also recognition of our community members for their notable achievements.**
- **Working closely with the Indo American Foundation and our other sister organizations for the Tsunami fundraising drive, the Katrina fundraising drive, the Indian Festival and the Food Fair organized by the Foundation.**
- **Joining the US India Political Action Committee as a member association to increase visibility on a national level.**
- **Serving as a fiscal agent for our members organizing non-ticketed cultural programs so that they can avail themselves of the discounted non-profit rental charges of facilities**
- **Please excuse me if I have left off anything that someone may consider to be a highlight as well.**

As you can see we have had an extremely busy and successful year. None of this would have been possible without the dedicated hard work of a very special and talented group of board members and the help and support of the community. Kudos to all for a job well done! I think we all deserve a round of applause!!

On a personal note, I would like to thank each and every member of the board for all their support. I have enjoyed working with each and every one of you and think you are the best!

Finally, we know some of you will be leaving us next year. We will miss you all, but look forward to your continued support and advice. If I now start enumerating all you have done for our success this year we may have to stay here all night! So, let me just conclude by requesting the Board Members who are leaving to please stand up and be recognized:

Chitra Muralidhar, our Vice-President; Shekhar Patwardan, our Treasurer – he is in India and so could not attend today; Arty Kumar, our Cultural Director; Pam Kharbanda, our Youth Director; and Sujatha Krishnaswamy, our Webmaster. Please join me in applauding them, and wishing them all the best in their future endeavors!

Thank You.

- Kalpana Batni