



<http://www.iamn.org>

India Association of Minnesota is a non-profit corporation registered in the State of Minnesota for the educational, cultural and charitable purposes. It is operated by the volunteers from the community.

Annual Calendar of Events for 2005

Annual Dinner & Tsunami Rehabilitation, February 5, Radisson Hotel, Roseville, 5:00pm to 9:00pm (for details see the flier inside)

This is an annual event held early in the year which brings the community of those sharing a common Indian origin together. It represents the interests of the community.

Festival of Nations, April 24th-April 27th at the River Center in downtown St. Paul.

IAM operates a food booth that sells Indian Food and also organizes cultural programs and a bazaar featuring Indian artifacts.

Independence Day, August 20th at Snail Lake Park, 12:00pm to 5:00pm.

Held in mid-summer to celebrate the Indian Independence Day followed by picnic with food and games.

Festival of India, October 2nd at the Landmark Center, 12:00pm to 5:00pm.

This is an annual event held in Fall at the Landmark Center in St. Paul, showcasing music, dances, cultural entertainment programs and food stalls from India.

From the President

Godan Nambudiripad, a member of the Trusty Advisory Council of IAM (TAC) told me the other day, "We are thinking, it would be an interesting year, 2005". Yes, I believe so. It'll be an exceptional historical year for IAM. Asian American Press covered the IAM General Body Meeting that was held on December 4, 2004, in their weekly newspaper. It was published in their frontpage headlines. India Abroad's weekly newspaper covered it as well.

The new IAM Board Members for 2005 are already showing a great deal of initiative and interest. This year started with extraordinary responsibilities and efforts to raise funds and initiate project(s) of rehabilitation for the Tsunami survivors in India. Our Board Members are working hard to voluntarily extend help and support to the best of their ability. Your positive response to our appeal will make a big difference to the life of a victim. Our efforts will be an on going process through out the year.

On January 8th 2005, three members of Trusty advisory council, Shanti Shah, Anoop Mathur and Godan Nambudiripad facilitated a transition meeting between the

IAM Boards of 2004 and 2005.

In the meeting I expressed my vision to build stronger communication and understanding within all communities including the South Asian groups. Involvement with the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans would help to increase communication with other South Asian groups. Within the Indian community, communication could be increased by using the newsletter, the IAM website and introducing new activities. We have planned an informal social dinner with the community leaders. The planning for Jam sessions is underway, which is an excellent informal program for music lovers. I am sure we will be able to find new talented artists from these Jam sessions.

Our participation in management to organize the Dragon Festival (Asian Heritage Festival) in the last two years gives us a unique opportunity to build the bridge with Asian Communities. I'll continue to pursue and to support the festival. I would encourage everyone to attend it. I feel the Indian community also needs to rebuild a stronger 55+ Group. The Indian community is adding senior citizens every day, there-

fore the 55+ Group memberships should have increased. Some of their group activities could be sponsored by IAM. I also feel that IAM should take an active role in creating a common platform where Youth Groups would be able to create a stronger group. There could be a special section in the IAM newsletter and IAM Web-page dedicated to them. It would be a part of our efforts this year to build bridges between the generations of People of Indian Origin, the country of a rich culture and heritage.

I urge you to participate in our events to fulfill IAM's mission. The calendar for the major programs organized by IAM is published in this issue. Please be a volunteer in the programs of your choice. Our goal is to build a winning team.

- Dilip K Mallick
President, IAM 2005

Appeal to Minnesotans to Support Tsunami Victims

We've all read the headlines. We've all seen faces that look like us on TV.

On December 26 '2005, a 30-foot high wall of water engulfed the poorest shoreline communities throughout the Indian Ocean. The earthquake and tsunami took more than 150,000 lives and displaced and injured millions more. Drinking water is contaminated and water-borne illnesses are sure to rise. Over one third of the dead are children. Thousands of them became orphans. They do not know where to go. Some of the children are still waiting for their parents to come, take care of them and feed them. An entire generation of fishermen and workers in the tourist industry has been wiped out, leaving their families without wage earners.

The Indian Association of Minnesota is committed to fulfill their obligations and responsibilities towards the survivors of the Tsunami. IAM organized two separate sessions with Asian and Indian community leaders to produce sets of unique plans to lunch Rehabilitation Programs in specific Tsunami affected areas.

The Indian Association of Minnesota, a 501(c) 3 organization, which has earned the trust of

Minnesota's Indian community over the last 33 years, is raising funds to help our brothers and sisters in the affected areas just as we did for several disaster relief in USA and India in past.

Only with your support can we continue our tradition of responding to disasters like this. We appeal to Minnesota's generous community to contribute once again. Funds collected should be used for the reconstruction and rehabilitation project(s) only with the partnership of local non-profit NGO(s) that have outstanding track record and experience in rehabilitation projects. The Sub-Committee, "Tsunami Rehabilitation Committee of IAM", will ensure that the objectives of the Project (s) are met and recommend the distribution of funds.

We in the U.S. are in a position of relative privilege and thus have a responsibility to come to the aid of people who – in the blink of an eye, through no act of their own – have had their lives changed forever.

The IAM Board is asking all members of the community to respond to this tragedy and to give to the charity of their choice.

Donations can be made to the "IAM Tsunami Relief Fund." Checks can be mailed to:

Mr. Nitin Patil
IAM Treasurer
11185 Anderson Lakes Parkway, Appt. #324
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Contact Information:

Balki Radhakrishnan 952-926-0811,
balki_r@hotmail.com or

Ramesh Muniswamy 651-994-8015,
Ramesh@iamn.org

Your kindness means a lot to the victims of mother nature.

Sincerely,
Dilip K Mallick
President, IAM 2005

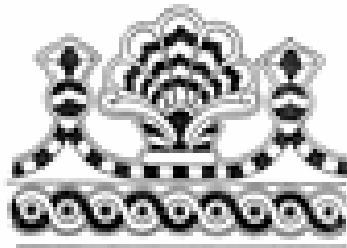
Outgoing President's Message

It was a great honor to have served as President of IAM in 2004. It provided me with the opportunity to serve the community and promote many of IAM's goals. As you are aware, we had a successful year developing relationships with various organizations throughout the community and providing more opportunities for IAM members to participate in activities of interest to them. We significantly increased IAM membership this year. I hope this will provide for greater success for IAM in the future. All of this could not have happened without the dedicated service of the Board or the support of the community. It was a joy to work with all the board members - I hope they had as much fun as I did! I would like to thank everyone who made 2004 a successful year for IAM.

I would like to wish Dilip Mallick and the new Board a successful 2005. This year is going to be especially challenging because of the tsunami disaster that struck India and other countries in Asia, claiming many innocent lives and leaving millions homeless. Given the magnitude of the devastation there is a lot of concern, both within the Indian community and outside. Congresswoman

McCollum expressed her deepest sympathy to the Indian community and offered to help in any way she can. Since IAM is often the first point of contact into the Indian community, it is important that we can respond effectively on behalf of the whole community. IAM has set up a Tsunami Relief Fund committee to raise funds for the victims of the disaster. I hope all of you will support IAM in this effort.

- Rabinder K Bains,
President, IAM 2004



Quotable Quotes: *By Mahatma Gandhi*

Live as if you were to die tomorrow.
Learn as if you were to live forever.

First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win.

Honest disagreement is often a good sign of progress.

The things that will destroy us are: politics without principle; pleasure without conscience; wealth without work; knowledge without character; business without morality; science without humanity; and worship without sacrifice.

Community Dinner on December 11th

Diwali, Id, Guru Nanak Jayanti and Christmas four significant festivals celebrated in South Asia were commemorated within a two month period in 2004. To mark the occasion and to celebrate together, a community dinner was held on December 11th in the President's room, Coffman Memorial Union at the University of Minnesota.

Good food and a convivial atmosphere essential ingredients for any South Asian gathering were the mainstay of the evening.

The occasion was also an opportunity to share With each other the unique ways in which we celebrate these festivals. Stories were exchanged of Indians and Pakistanis discovering their shared heritage here in the US and of Hindu families tonsuring their heads at a local church in Karnataka.

People at the dinner reminisced about how they jointly celebrated festivals in their youth, and of reviving old traditions like a women's musical night the day before Id. Some of these tales were amusing, others deeply moving.



They brought out the 'personal' aspect in our faiths and beliefs and reminded us of why we celebrate.

It is hoped that this dinner is the first of many and that we will continue to use this platform to come together and...celebrate.

- Sudha Nagavarapu, AID-MN



2005 IAM Annual Dinner dedicated to Tsunami Rehabilitation

Each year, during the bleakest part of Minnesota winter, the Twin Cities Indian community and its friends venture out into the cold to attend the IAM Annual Dinner. Why? We do it for the warmth—the warmth of good conversation, good Indian food, and the good company of those who share our ties to India. At this year's event, we will have a special opportunity to demonstrate just how strong and powerful are those ties. The 2005 India Association of Minnesota Annual Dinner, to be held on Saturday, February 5th, will be dedicated to raising funds to aid in the rehabilitation of Indian and other South Asian communities devastated by last month's tsunami. Mark your calendars now and plan on attending this important event.

Special invitees include the Consul General of India, Mr. Arun Kumar, Senator Mark Dayton

(D-MN), Senator Norm Coleman (R-MN), state Senator Satveer Chaudhary (DFL), and KSTP-TV news anchor, Vineeta Sawkar. Ms. Sawkar, the Consul General, and Senator Chaudhary have confirmed as of the date of this article. The others have expressed their hope to attend, schedules permitting.

In addition, IAM will present the 2004 IAM Achievement Awards to an organization and an individual demonstrating exceptional commitment and contribution to the Indian community.

So, come in from the cold on February 5th, visit with friends, eat a tasty Indian meal, and most of all, experience the warmth that comes with giving.

See the attached flier for details about loca-

tion, time and tickets.

- Ramona Advani,
Member, IAM 2005 Board





India Association of Minnesota (IAM)

invites you to the

2005 Annual Dinner

Join us to celebrate the Republic Day of India and help us raise funds for TSUNAMI REHABILITATION efforts

Saturday, February 5, 2005 (5 p.m. to 9 p.m.)

At Radisson Hotel

2540 North Cleveland Ave, Roseville MN 55113

Fundraising for TSUNAMI REHABILITATION efforts

IAM achievement awards

Keynote addresses

Special invitees: Sen. Norm Coleman, Sen. Mark Dayton, Sen. Satveer Choudhary, Indian Consulate General and Vineeta Sawkar (KSTP/TV)

For more information, contact:

Sandhya Gupta	:	(952) 942-6194,	sandhya@iamn.org
Shalini Thadani	:	(651)-734-0645,	shalini@iamn.org
Ramona Advani	:	(612)-825-6632,	ramona@iamn.org
Dilip K Mallick	:	(763) 564-9393,	dilip@iamn.org

Limited seating available! Get your tickets soon!!

Advance tickets: \$35 (\$30-IAM members, \$20-Students).

Please respond by Jan 29th, 2005

Make checks payable to "IAM" and mail payment to Nitin Patil at
11185 Anderson Lakes Parkway, Apt 324, Eden Prairie, MN 55344.

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2004 IAM Annual General Body Meeting

Summary

IAM held its annual General Body meeting on Saturday, Dec. 4 '2004 at the International Institute of Minnesota in St. Paul. The meeting started with a welcome speech by 2004 IAM President Rabinder Bains, followed by introductions from the IAM members and other guests.

Rabinder Bains in her President's address recapped the major activities that were carried out during the calendar year 2004 and appreciated the hard work of volunteers who made these events successful. The year started off with the annual Republic Day dinner and ended with the Annual General Body Meeting. In-between these two events were the Festival of Nations, Dragon Boat Race, Independence Day Picnic, Festival of India, and Indo-Pak Mushaira. In addition to these scheduled events, IAM undertook several other activities such as the nomination of Pangea World Theater Directors Dipankar Mukerjee and Meena Natarajan for the Award for Excellence in the Arts, a visit to Rochester last summer to greet former Indian Prime Minister V. P. Singh who was here for his medical treatment at Mayo Clinic. She also reported that the membership increased from 200 at the beginning of the year to 300 by the end of the year. She appreciated the volunteer help of Vibha in organizing several community events. She also provided an outline and recommendations as to what can be achieved for the next year.

Rabinder Bains also touched on a few other activities and organizations IAM is either actively engaged with or supporting, such as St. Paul foundation, Asia Pacific Council, SILC, SEWA-AIFW (Asian Indian Family wellness), AIWA, Oral History Project, House of Charity - Soup Kitchen and Book Club.

Nitin Patil presented the Treasurer's report for the year 2004.

Franklin Gummadi spoke about the need for making IAM a much stronger organization and explained the role of Trustee Advisory Council (TAC) with respect to the IAM Board.

Sandhya Joshi, Principal of SILC, provided the community members with an update of the current activities at SILC, which was started in 1979.

AID-MN volunteer Dwiji Guru reminded the

community members of the 20 years of suffering by the Bhopal Gas victims and collected the signatures of all attendees to a petition seeking faster relief and rehabilitation to the victims.

Rabinder Bains recognized the Board and the office bearers for the year 2004 with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Preeti Mathur introduced the nominees for the new 2005 board and all were unanimously elected. A new nominating board for the year 2005 was also elected.



Photo: The 2005 IAM Board

Ram Gada briefed the newly elected Board members on the IAM by-laws and the code of conduct. He then conducted the election for the year 2005 executive committee. Dilip Mallick, Ramesh Muniswamy, Shalini Thadani, and Nitin Patil were unanimously elected as President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer respectively.



Photo: Ram Gada briefs the new board

Dilip Mallick after formally accepting his election as the IAM President for 2005 appreciated the contributions of Rabinder Bains for the IAM cause and presented a her with a memento as a

token of appreciation. Dilip Mallick who had served as vice president of IAM in 2004 expressed his desire and willingness to discharge his responsibilities as President and work towards a better future for IAM. He briefly explained his vision and goals for the next year, and solicited help from the rest of the board and the community leaders to make it a successful year.

- Ramesh Muniswami,
Vice President, IAM 2005



INDIA ASSOCIATION OF MINNESOTA
P.O. BOX 130158
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<http://www.iamn.org>

IAM 2005 Board Officers

President	Dilip Mallick (763)-546-9393
Vice President	Ramesh Muniswami (651)-994-8015
Treasurer	Nitin Patil (952)-896-9780
Secretary	Shalini Thadani (651)-734-0645



Photo (L to R): Ramesh Muniswami,
Shalini Thadani, Nitin Patil, Dilip Mallick

2005 Board Members

Bhairvi Mahant	(651)-739-8108
Bob Ramer	(651)-644-9880
Datta Godbole	(763)-551-1620
Dilip Mallick	(763)-546-9393
Guptan Nambudiripad	(651)-698-0866
Indushekharan Nair	(952)-881-4847
Kavita Iyer	(612)-379-0428
Nitin Patil	(952)-896-9780
Pranab Chatterjee	(651)-714-2980
Rabinder Bains	(651)-735-4322
Raji Shankar	(651)-730-5966
Ramesh Muniswami	(651)-994-8015
Ramona Advani	(612)-825-6632
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Sanghamitra Sahu	(763)-593-1403
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Shambhu Nath	(952)-496-9119
Shivanthi Sathanandan	(651)-698-0774
Sudhir Singh	(763)-577-0788
Syed Ghazi Akailvi	(651)-292-0468

2005 Newsletter Committee

*Ramona Advani, Bob Ramer,
Sanghamitra Sahu, Sandhya Gupta and
Sanjukta Misra*

Indian and Other Businesses

If you are interested in advertising in the upcoming Issues of the Newsletter for '2005, please contact any of the following on the Newsletter sub-committee, by March 1, 2005:

Ramona Advani	(612) -825-6632
Bob Ramer	(651) -644-9880
Sanghamitra Sahu	(763) -593-1403
Sandhya Gupta	(952) -942-6194
Sanjukta Misra	(952)-914-9791

Cost of advertising are as follows:

Business Card Size:	\$50/issue
Half Page:	\$150/issue
Full Page:	\$300/issue

Note: We publish four issues a year in January, March, July and October.

Quotable Quotes:

*You can't cross the sea merely by
standing and staring at the water.
Don't let yourself indulge in vain
wishes. - Rabindranath Tagore*

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