COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE INDO-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF DELAWARE

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HAPPY NEW MILLENNIA TO ALL HAVE A GREAT 2001!

Mark Your Calendars

January 5, 2001:  INDIAFEST 2000 VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY - 7 PM
4 Thornberry Lane, Hockessin, DE 19707
For Directions call Deepa Lal: (302) 234-9680

January 5, 2001:  IAAD GENERAL BODY MEETING - 8 PM
4 Thornberry Lane, Hockessin, DE 19707
For Directions call Deepa Lal: (302) 234-9680

January 7, 2001:  SARVADHARMA PRARTHANA (ALL FAITH PRAYER)
For Directions call Asha Dodia: (302) 234-1942

January 28, 2001: HEALTH SEMINAR ON BREAST & PROSTATE CANCER - 3 PM
Best Western Inn, Rt 273, Newark, DE
For additional information call Khaja Yezdani (302) 999-7475

April 2, 2001:  IAAD CULTURAL PROGRAM
An eventful entertainment program, details are being worked out

INDO-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF DELAWARE
113 JUPITER RD.
NEWARK, DE 19711

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
As we await the start of the New Millennia, the mood is festive. Many of us have spent the last few weeks maybe shopping or just simply browsing around. Many of us are travelling across the country, meeting friends or relatives or the much-awaited pilgrimage to MickeyLand or probably visiting India. This Newsletter might have been lying in the mail bin, or in-cue behind some of the more important mails to get sorted first. Well, we hope you all had fun over the holidays and wish you all a great start as the New Millennia kicks in.

This Newsletter has a serious shortcoming and before you find out, let us just say that it does not cover IndiaFest 2000 as it should have, with pictures and write-ups and the whole bit. We thought that there was much to say in this Newsletter about the upcoming events in 2001 and that there was a lot of interesting home-grown material to put across you. Those that you would find specially intriguing are a sensitive poem by budding Montesh Punjabi and the voice of the community ‘Raga the Radio Show’. We also thought that some might wonder what is the concept of “New Millennium” or how does it correspond with the Hindu Calendar, terms we have all heard growing-up like ‘amavasya’, ‘makar sakranti’, etc? Well, you may find your answers in ‘Panchang’ or ‘Millennium Fuss’.

Till next time... have fun!

Rajiv Sinha for IAAD
INDIAFEST 2000
VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY!!!

IndiaFest 2000 was the best IAAD function we ever had, thanks to the work of over a hundred dedicated volunteers. IAAD is pleased to announce a belated Volunteer Appreciation Party on Friday January 5, 2001. The details are as follows:

Date: Friday, January 5, 2001 at 7:00 PM
Location: 4 Thornberry Lane
Hockessin, DE 19707

For directions call Deepa Lal: (302) 234-9680

We will make all efforts to contact each volunteer individually, but given the large number of volunteers, we are sure to miss some!

Volunteers: Whether you are contacted or not, please inform your Committee Chairperson or Pravin Dattani at (302) 234-0416 if you are attending the party, so proper arrangements can be made for the party.

Thanks!

Note: The IAAD Annual General Body Meeting will be held starting at 8:00 PM following the party.
"SARVADHARMA PRARTHANA" (ALL FAITH PRAYER)
Sunday, January 7, 2001
2:30 PM - 3:30PM

You are all invited to join a special "sarwadharma prathana" or "all faith prayer" get-together which will be held on Sunday, January 7, 2001 to welcome the New Millennia. A time for one-and-all to join-in their hearts and hands in prayer to wish for a better life for themselves and their children. Joining us on this occasion will be Swami Tadatmanandji of Arsha Bodha Center, NJ.

For directions and any additional information please call:
Ms. Asha Dodia (302) 234-1942
Ms. Preeti Pinto (601) 793-1517
Dr. S Iqbal (302) 322-2689

IAAD HEALTH & COMMUNITY AWARENESS
SEMINAR SERIES
by
DR. HUSEIN CAMPWALA

TOPIC: COMMON CANCERS ARE NOT SO UNCOMMON

FOR WOMEN: CANCER OF THE BREAST
- How does it affect Asian Indian Women?
- Who is at Risk?
- How to detect it EARLY?
- What is a Mammogram?
- State of the Art of Treatment

FOR MEN: CANCER OF THE PROSTATE

Presentation to be followed by questions from the audience.
For additional information or if you have suggestions for future programs call
Khaja Yezdani, M.D. 302.999.7475
S.M. Iqbal, Ph.D. 302.322.2689

ON
SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2001
3:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.
AT
BEST WESTERN DELAWARE INN
RT.273 & I-95
NEWARK, DE
(302) 738-3400
Although we are relatively few in number here in Delaware, we Indians love to share our culture with each other as well as with the rest of the community. IndiaFest, the Hindu Temple, music concerts, and Diwali celebrations are all a part of that. So is our very own radio show “Raga”, which was started in 1990 by Ram Subramaniam, a graduate student in the Computer Science department of the University of Delaware, on what was then WXDR, 91.3 FM. Ram asked me to take over when he had to leave Delaware to take up a job in 1992. The show first aired from 11:00 PM to midnight on Sunday. It finally became expanded to a 2 hour format from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM in May 2000. With support from the Indian community members, WVUD, and local music lovers, “Raga” has become a good community resource.

The Station
"Raga" is the only radio show in Delaware dedicated to music from India, both popular and classical, thanks to WVUD, 91.3 FM, the University of Delaware radio station. This is a community radio station which is partly listener supported and staffed mostly by volunteer DJ’s such as myself, including UD students and community members. There are only three professionals - The Station Director, the Engineer, and an Administrative Assistant, who are actually paid employees. One can hear every genre of music available worldwide on WVUD. Since the DJ’s all do it for the love of their music rather than for money, there is a genuine feel and quality to each show which is unmatched.

The Show
"Raga" airs every Sunday from 4 PM to 6 PM on WVUD - Newark, 91.3 FM and offers 2 full hours of Indian Music, including:

- 4:00 to 4:30 - Fusion Music: Collaborations between top Indian and Western Musicians
- 4:30 to 5:00 - Ghazal and Qawaali: Traditional poetic music from India and Pakistan
- 5:00 to 5:30 - Filmi Geet: Modern Film and Popular Music from India
- 5:30 to 6:00 - Classical Music - Original classical music from North and South India.

The show has been arranged in this way to give maximum exposure to the different creative influences coming from India. As in today’s India, tradition and modernity thrive side by side here. As a radio show, “Raga” faces the impossible task of communicating the stunningly sensuous beauty of Indian culture but without a visual component! Those who have not watched Indian movies will not understand what a beautiful voice like Lata Mangeshkar combined with a heart-stopping actress like Aishwariya Rai in full regalia (pictured here) can communicate. The music has to be carefully chosen to accomplish this goal, especially since there are also lots of listeners who have seen the same songs being performed as part of beautifully shot scenes in full-screen movies.

The Music
Indian Classical Music of both the North (Hindustani) and the South (Carnatic) is based on a tradition reaching back perhaps 3,000 years. The essence of our music is the art of improvisation, using the fundamental interplay between swara (notes) and tala (rhythm). The Sanskrit word “Raga” originally meant "mood" or "emotion". In Indian Classical music, a mood is created not just by a certain combination of ascending and descending scales, but also by the way they are used, i.e. which notes are dominant, which are used to end a phrase, and which sequences of notes are typically used. Such tangible qualities combine to create the intangible mood of a raga -- something which is best...
experienced rather than described. Ultimately, it is the capacity to feel the music rather than the technical complexities, which truly matters for both listeners and performers. This music is profoundly spiritual in nature, regardless of the religion of the musicians or audience. The Hindu Goddess Saraswati, shown here with her Vina, has always been the symbol of Classical Music in India.

No wonder that some of the best musicians from other genres such as Jazz (John Coltrane, John McLaughlin) and Western Classical (Yehudi Menuhin) have interacted intensely with Indian musicians such as Ravi Shankar, Zakir Hussain (pictured here), L. Shankar and others to produce brilliant Fusion Music which transcends boundaries, as well as the abilities of most musicians!

Film Music, or "Filmi Geet" is heavily influenced by traditional Indian music genres, all of which are strongly rooted in Indian Classical Music. But commercial music directors tend to borrow heavily from many foreign influences, including Jazz, Rock, Eastern European, Spanish, Latin American, Celtic, Reggae, and Middle Eastern. The singing style and rhythms tend to be distinctively Indian, however. As a result, Indian pop music has developed a very distinctive identity even while shamelessly imitating the latest Western fads.

The "Ghazal" art form is the musical incarnation of the Indo-Islamic cultural fusion which took place under the Mughal dynasty some 400 years ago. In art and architecture (e.g., Taj Mahal), in cuisine (Mughlai food), in language (Urdu), in poetry (Shaiyari), and in poetry set to song (Ghazal), Hindu and Muslim influences flowed together like two great rivers, merging to produce one of the world's most brilliant cultures. While that culture finally fell under foreign rule, it still flows strongly, and its beauty can still be heard in the haunting ghazals sung by artists from both India and Pakistan.

Please tune into "Raga", from 4:00 to 6:00 PM every Sunday on WVUD, 91.3 FM, and hear the creativity of this beautiful culture. Call (302) 831-2701 to place requests during show times, or e-mail me at skb@udel.edu. You can also listen online at http://www.wvud.org. Thanks for listening!
OUTSTANDING STUDENT!

We extend our appreciation to Mona Yezdani, a Senior at Tower Hill School who was one of the four outstanding high school students from the State of Delaware to be selected to participate in the prestigious National Student Leadership Conference in Medicine and Health in Washington D.C.

The students attended workshops at the National Institute of Health, John Hopkins Hospital and The American Red Cross. Attendees engaged in critical analysis within a learning environment that encouraged diversity, cooperation, social responsibility and leadership skills.

MONA WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!

YOUTH GROUP SKI TRIP

☐ The IAAD Youth Group will organize a Ski Trip on January 21, 2001. Anyone interested please follow the details listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SKI LOCATION:</th>
<th>Jack Frost Mountain, Poconos, PA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DATE:</td>
<td>Sunday, January 21, 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIME:</td>
<td>6 AM to 7 PM</td>
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Costs Per Head (Group Package)

- Lift Ticket, Ski Rental & Ski Lessons $30.00
- Travel Costs to the Ski Location $15.00
- Total Costs Per Head $48.00

☐ You carry your own food
☐ Pickup/dropoff locations are planned to be Lantana Square on Rt.7 and Tri-State Mall on Namans Road.
☐ All participants must get a ‘Field Trip Permission Slip’ (see next page of this Newsletter) signed by a parent before the trip.
☐ All Checks shall be addressed to “IAAD”.
☐ All Checks and the Field Permission Slip must reach the specified address by 1/7/2001.
☐ Others over 12 years of age are welcome if space permits.
☒ Younger brothers/sisters of IAAD Youth Group members below 12 years of age are welcome if accompanied by a parent.
☐ Three adult chaperons are needed and will get a free ride on the bus. Those interested, please contact Trip Coordinator Manjul Asthana at (302) 234-0214.

For additional details call/send message:
Megan Pasricha at (302) 234-0288 OR Sheel Ganatra at (302) 235-2556 or mr_sheel@hotmail.com

POEM

by Montesh Punjabi

A s I lie outside gazing up,
I see the turns of time through my world
that has passed.

A s it twists and turns through tests, quizzes, school and all,
I feel the midnight mist gently fall.

M y eyes are shutting but without a doubt,
I k now my world is up and about.

I see the Starlight shine so bright,
I see the various patterns from stars far up in the light.

I think of how deep space really goes,
I think of what it would be like
to grab a Star and be under its spell from all the bright light.

A ll this while lying under the Moon’s silvery light.

KIDS CORNER at IndiaFest 2000

The Youth Group played an important role in the extremely successful IndiaFest 2000. We helped organize and run the Kids Corner such that the parents could see displays and attend seminars without worrying about their children. There were games and crafts for the kids to enjoy. Many members of the Indo-American Youth Group participated in running the booths and really made the Kids Corner exciting and fun. We would like to thank Ms Rashmi Kumar and all of the participants who came and made the Kids Corner a success.

Meghan Pasricha
Youth Group Co-President

Poetic Montesh is a young teenager with a charming personality and varied interests. Currently an honor roll 9th grader at Caravel Academy and an aspiring MIT graduate.
Hockessin boy's knowledge is tested on 'Jeopardy!'

by Berlinda Bruce
12/17/2000

Eleven-year-old Tarun Chitra, 11, of Hockessin, says his appearance on a kids version of "Jeopardy!" was nerve-wracking. The show will air Dec. 26.

Eleven-year-old Tarun Chitra of Hockessin is scheduled to appear on "Jeopardy!" Dec. 26, but he can't tell a soul whether he won or lost. The show was taped in August. Every child who appears in the five-day kids version gets substantial prizes, but that's about all Tarun will say about the outcome. The prizes are shipped after the show airs.

"We had to promise the 'Jeopardy!' people we wouldn't say who won," he said.

No matter, there are so many other things to talk about. For instance, announcer Johnny Gilbert could pronounce Tarun's name but not Hockessin.

"I had to say it about 10 times for him," Tarun said. "He said it right on the air, but that's because he practiced."

It was quite an adventure, Tarun said, and the best part was when the show ended. That's when he got to relax.

"It was nerve-wracking," he said. "When I knew answers, I couldn't ring in fast enough. When I rang in, the answer froze in my head."

There was a lot of mathematics, which Tarun is good at under other circumstances. But he was racing against time -- and other children. Tarun's father, Surya, accompanied him to Los Angeles. The taping was equally tense for him. "All the parents sat together," Surya Chitra said. "I was nervous. I don't know how he was taking it." Thank heaven for commercial breaks. That's when the show's host, Alex Trebek, stepped out of his television persona.

"He makes jokes during breaks," Chitra said. "You can ask him questions, and he answers as many as he can. Alex is not that serious as we see on TV."

Tarun watches the game show most nights. He usually can get a few questions right. But it's quite different on the other side, he said. "All the lights and people staring at you," he said. "I thought the audience was a little box. It was huge."

Tarun signed up online for a contestant search in Philadelphia in June. The next month, he went to Philadelphia to take tests. "Then they sent me a Fed Ex package while I was on vacation in India," Tarun said. "I had to come back. I was having a good time, too. They wanted me to be in Los Angeles in a week."

So Tarun flew home alone. He also had to go shopping for a blazer to meet the "Jeopardy!" dress code. "You have to wear a white shirt, khakis or black slacks, and a blazer. I had everything but the blazer," Tarun's mom, Rohini, and his little brother, Uthsav, 5, stayed home. They, of course, know how Tarun made out. But if you want to know, you'll have to tune in Dec. 26.
For the people of India, time has always been measured in a spiritual and scientific calendar called the Panchang. Chronicling five thousand years of Indian civilization, the Panchang lists festivals that honor and celebrate the gods and legends of India. It evokes the universe through mathematical calculations that predict weather, events, epidemics and personal fortune.

For Hindus, the Gregorian calendar is a new meaning of time introduced and instituted by the British in India. While the Gregorian calendar is still used by the people and government of India, the Panchang has always been the spiritual expression of time for Hindus and a guide to a life close to God and religion.

The Panchang measures time in lunar months whose names reveal the secret path of stars and constellations. The face of the new moon (Aamvasya) ushers in a new month. The first fortnight of the full moon is known as Shuklapaksha, 'the bright half', as the Moon waxes. Full moon, Poornima marks the end of Shuklapaksha. Krishnapaksha is the dark half fortnight of the month during which the Moon wanes.

The Panchang lists four weeks of seven days, identified with planets and gods. Encompassing the evolution of the universe, the Panchang is much more than the meaning of time in India. For Hindus, it is the essence of religion and living, which predicts the spiritual path of people on a journey towards god.

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MILLENNIUM FUSS

by Rajeev Srinivasan

[Courtesy: Rajiv Srinivasan & www.rediff.com]

In the midst of all the fuss about the new millennium in the Gregorian calendar, most of us missed another centenarian event: the beginning of the 52nd century of the Kali Yuga in the Hindu calendar, on March 18. This is Yugabda 5101. So why should anyone care? Isn’t this just another somewhat eccentric calendar like the Saka Era followed by the Indian government?

On the contrary, Indians or at least Hindus should care. The widespread popularity of the Gregorian calendar is a vestigial side-effect of European colonialism, and the fact that Anglo-American business practices have more or less become the default option in much of the world. Although we tend to take these European-derived practices as somehow rational and even pre-ordained, there is nothing inherently scientific about them.

Interestingly, Jews have a rather ancient calendar, wherein this year is 5759. Since Judaism has been around for some time, this calendar must date back to some significant early event in the history of the Jewish people. Similarly, one would assume, the length of the Hindu calendar signifies some early event in the history of Hindus.

However, the earliest known Hindu text is the Rig Veda, dated to about 1500 BCE. Thus the Hindu calendar should date back only about 3,500 years. Therefore, the business about the Kali Yuga and 5,000 years must be some convenient fiction made up by medieval Hindu scholars, right? This is certainly what we have been led to believe by the Macaulayite educational system in India.

According to conventional wisdom, the Hindu texts that state that the Kali Yuga began in 3102 BCE, and that there was some spectacular celestial configuration of planets to mark that event, are merely fanciful mythical accounts. For after all, in 3102 BCE, Hindus were still far from writing the earliest Vedic texts -- and they were not a civilization until around the 1500 BCE date of the Rig Veda.

But wait, where did the estimate of 1500 BCE come from? Why, it came from Max Mueller, the eminent German Indologist, who dated the Vedas after considerable study in the 19th century CE. And how exactly did Max Mueller come upon this date? It turns out that he just made it up, based on certain cyclical logic!
You see, Max Mueller, being a Christian fundamentalist/missionary, took it as an axiom that the world was created in 4004 BCE, as some British bishop had deduced from a study of the Bible and related texts. Therefore, argued Mueller, after Adam and Eve, it would have taken a 1,000 years or so to populate Europe (with pure Aryans, of course).

Thereafter, given the Aryan Invasion Theory, it would have taken the Aryans a thousand years to migrate from Central Europe to India, bringing the Vedas with them. So add 2,000 years or so to 4004 BCE, put in a little swag factor of 500 years, and hey presto, you have the Rig Veda dated to 1500 BCE! Impeccable logic, surely.

I exaggerate slightly above, but in substance, this is the ethno-centric and Christian-centric view that has illuminated, so to speak, Indian understanding of its own pre-history. And this has been the state of affairs until scholars such as Dr Koenraad Elst, Dr Subhash Kak, Dr David Frawley, et al began to question both the Aryan Invasion Theory and the dating of Indian pre-history.

I will not get into the wretched Aryan Invasion Theory controversy, but it is surely interesting to look at ancient Indian astronomy. It has long been assumed that Indian astronomy was derived from the Greek -- after all, Euro-centrics pre-supposed that Greek civilization was the fountain of all classical knowledge; the curious fact that the Indian and Greek astrological signs were identical was attributed to Indian borrowing from the Greeks.

It turns out, however, that Hindu texts do fairly accurately describe historical celestial events -- for instance the singular planetary configuration that is supposed to have taken place in 3102 BCE to mark the beginning of the Kal Yuga did in fact take place. This leads to two possibilities: one, that the astronomical events were actually observed then; two, that someone, after the laws of astrophysics became known (say Newton's time) back-calculated and inserted them into texts.

There is a problem with the first hypothesis: ancient Indians were not known to be astronomers, unlike, say the Chinese, who left detailed records of supernovae they observed, for instance in the Crab Nebula in 1054 CE. Second, if Indians were accurate astronomers 5,000 years ago, that presupposes an advanced civilization by that time, which makes India the oldest of all known civilizations. This does not fit in with conventional wisdom.

But consider the other hypothesis. Given the notorious state of the authenticity of Indian texts, tampering is not out of the question. So let's say some clever 18th century Hindu mathematician manufactured the evidence and inserted it into allegedly ancient texts.

But there is a flaw in this argument. It turns out that Indian astronomy (and astrology) over the centuries has had an error in it: it does not take into account the precession of the axis of the earth as it rotates around the sun. This is the tendency of the axis itself not to be oriented in space in fixed fashion, but to describe a cone -- it spins like the axis of a top does.

This error has accumulated over time. So for instance, Hindus celebrate the Winter Solstice on Makara Sankranti day, January 14th; however the real Winter Solstice is on December 22nd. Similarly, the Indian astrological months are offset by a couple of weeks from the real dates on which the sun enters those constellations.

Therefore, if an Indian mathematician were to recognize this error in Indian astronomy, take it into account, correct it, and backtrack to 3102 BCE, it would take a prodigious amount of computing power, that was not available until the recent creation of supercomputers. Therefore, the second hypothesis is impossible -- it was not back calculated. The event was in fact observed in 3102 BCE.

We are left with the possibility then that Indian civilization was already well-established in 3102 BCE. Which is interesting in and of itself. Furthermore, the Hindu calendar does speak in cosmic terms -- and it establishes the age of the universe as some 8.64 billion years, which fits in with modern, scientific cosmology (see Carl Sagan at http://www.rediff.com/news/jan/29sagan.htm).

I understand that the Indian government has denoted this year of the Hindu calendar as the Year of Sanskrit. Maybe in some of those crumbling palm-leaf manuscripts rotting away unsung, unwept, and unhonored, there
CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

Canadian Police arrested Ripudan Singh Malik and Ajaib Singh Bagri on Oct. 27 in Vancouver. The two were charged with the death of 329 passengers and crewmembers of an Air-India Boeing 747 flight 182 that blew up in mid-air over the Irish Sea en route from Canada to London on June 23, 1985. On the same day a suitcase blew up at Narita (Tokyo) Airport as it was being loaded on Air India Flight 301 killing two baggage handlers. Ujjal Dosanjh, a Sikh immigrant and the premier (Chief Minister) of British Columbia, described arrest and charges as a large step for Canadian justice.

Cricketers Mohammad Azharuddin, Ajay Jadeja, Nayan Mongia, Ajay Sharma and Manoj Prabhakar were suspended from playing cricket matches after a CBI report on match fixing was released on Nov 5. All five have denied charges. Kapil Dev was exonerated but resigned from his job as coach.

The Commission inquiring into the circumstances leading to the demolition of the Babri mosque in Ayodhya on Dec 6, 1992 has summoned Home Minister L K Advani, Human Resource Minister M M Joshi and Sports Minister Uma Bharati.

Ms Jayalalitha, former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu was sentenced to three years of imprisonment on corruption charges. The sentence debars her from any election.

P. V. Narsimha Rao, former Prime Minister, was sentenced to three years of imprisonment on charges of corruption and criminal conspiracy. He was found guilty of bribing four members of parliament (MP) Jharkand Mukti Morcha (JMM) Party to vote against no-confidence motion in his government in 1993.

DATES TO REMEMBER IN 2001

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>DAY</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14 January</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Makar Sankranti</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 January</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Republic Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 February</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Vasant Panchami</td>
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<td>4 March</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Maha Shivratri</td>
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<td>17 March</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Bakri Id</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 March</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Holi</td>
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INDIA ON THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL?

Greece, a member of the European Union, has extended full support to India's candidacy for a permanent seat in an expanded UN Security Council. Greek Foreign Minister George Papandreou conveyed Athens' support when he met with External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh here Friday. Papandreou later left for home concluding a two-day visit, during which he also called on President K. R. Narayanan, Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and leader of the Opposition Sonia Gandhi.

INDIAN BOY WINS PIANO CONTEST

A young Indian American boy has won New Jersey's annual "Young Artiste Competition." Aneesh Gupta, 11, of Moorestown, New Jersey was placed first in the piano category for the 11-year-old group in the statewide competition sponsored by the New Jersey Music Teachers Association (NJMTA).

The competition was held recently at the Westminster Choir College at Princeton, New Jersey. Gupta fought off a field of 40 students in his category, said Veda Zuponcic, president-elect of NJMTA and chairman of the piano department at the College of Fine and Performing Arts of Rowan University in Glassboro, New Jersey.

This was Gupta's second victory in the competition. In 1998 he took top honors in piano playing for his age group, and was placed second in 1994.

YAHOO!

Anil Singh, one of Yahoo!'s top executives, is giving up his position as senior vice president of business operations and chief of sales and marketing, to move to other unnamed areas within the company. Singh was the 21st employee at Yahoo! since its inception in 1995. Under his watch and his marketing efforts, Yahoo! became the top Internet portal in the world, from a little-known startup to the most trafficked Web site.
**Skiing – A Himalayan Feast!**

Davo Karnicar, a ski instructor from Slovenia, became the first person on Oct 7 to ski down from Mount Everest (29,035 feet) to his base camp (17,500 feet) in 5 hours, which included three stops. It had taken him and his team four days to climb the peak.

**Beauty and The Brain**

Priyanka Chopra was crowned Miss World on Nov 30 in London. 2 years in a row, both Miss World and Miss Universe crowns were won by Miss India. In total 7 Miss India have won Miss Universe and Miss World titles in addition to being runners-up.

**New States Formed**

3 new States were created in the Indian Union:

- **Chhattisgarh** became the 26th state comprising of the tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh with Raipur as its capital and having a population of 18 million. Ajit Jogi is the first Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh.
- **Uttaranchal** became the 27th state comprising of the Himalayan districts of Uttar Pradesh, with Dehradun as its capital and having a population of 7 million.
- **Jharkand** became the 28th state being carved out of portions of south Bihar, with Ranchi as its capital and having a population of 22 million. Babulal Marandi (BJP) is the first Chief Minister of Jharkand.

**WIPRO LISTED ON NYSE**

Wipro Ltd, a Bangalore based information technology firm, became the 8th Indian firm to list on a major United States stock market on Oct 19. Chairman Azim Premji rang the opening bell on New York Stock Exchange.

The Forbes 14th annual list of global billionaires placed Premji at 38th with a net worth of $6.9 billion and ranked him as the richest Indian. In addition to Wipro, New York Stock Exchange lists 4 more Indian companies, including Silverline Technologies, Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd, ICICI and ICICI Bank. Three Indian companies listed on Nasdaq, are Satyam Infoway, Infosys Technologies and Rediff.com.

**Indian Constitution recognizes 18 national languages, which are:**

- Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu.

**Sardar Sarovar Dam Construction Resumed**

Supreme Court ruled in favor of Sardar Sarovar Dam project against the concerns of the environmentalists. The dam is a part of a vast project in the states of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh to build a network 3,200 dams – including 30 large and 135 medium-sized ones – on River Narmada and its tributaries. The Supreme Court noted that such large dam projects had made the country self-sufficient in food and famines have become a thing of the past.

Supreme Court noted the concerns of the environmentalists and ruled that the height of the dam can be raised in phases from 290 feet to as high as 452 feet, with each major step requiring the approval of forestry and environmental officials. Home Minister Lal Kishan Advani inaugurated the resumption of the project on Oct 31.
Since 1984, the Indo-American Association of Delaware [IAAD] has served as a platform for resident Indians and several others from the Indian Subcontinent to come together and experience the rich culture of India as a community away from their native homes. IAAD serves the local community in several ways by participating through educational outreach programs, Adopt-a-Highway projects, philanthropic activities benefiting the Local Police Athletic League, the local Red Cross, etc. IAAD also publishes a quarterly Community Newsletter keeping
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