



# Darpan



India

भारत

India Association of Virginia (IAVA)

Volume 15, Issue 1, January 2009

### A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Community Member,

*Wishing You a Very Happy New Year,*

I am honored to serve as president of IAVA for the year 2009. My executive committee and I congratulate the immediate past president and her team for the job well done last year.

I am pleased that several of our past presidents, and experienced members have joined our team to work for the IAVA for this year. We have included members from different regions of India with various ethnicities to keep it as a true India Association. In addition, we have also brought young blood to our team. We will make every possible effort to make our association stronger.

My goal for this year would be lots of fun, food, activities, and fellowship by increasing the community members' participation. For our first grand event of the year, **Republic Day Celebration**, we are preparing for 1000 people. We will also publish India Directory in April 2009. We want to include the names of all active Indian families who support and participate in our community activities. To make the directory useful and comprehensive, we invite various Indian organizations to include their members' name in the directory.

I look forward to your support and participation in various IAVA activities with family and friends. Let us make an effort to bring the Indian community under one umbrella.

With warm regards,

*Surya P. Dhakar*

### 2009 Executive Committee

President	Surya P. Dhakar	304-9501
Vice President	Rajendra Dubey	754-3242
Secretary	Gautam Gandhi	400-0519
Joint-Secretary	Lokesh Golia	762-9666
Treasurer	Tony Sappal	965-6345
Assoc. Treasurer	Paavan Kotini	501-0221
Cultural Director	Bina H. Shah	527-6564
Assoc. Director	Deepali Keskar	346-5445
Assoc. Director	Simran Chiplunkar	273-6680
Social Director	Ram Pai	307-4597
Assoc. Director	Harjeet Sharma	346-4692
Membership Dir.	Venkat Chettiar	346-8238
Assoc. Director	Sridhar Sundaram	346-5445
Public Relation Dir.	Rajiv Chavan	360-2433
Sports Director	Sanjay Singhvi	402-3913
Camping Director	Anand Keskar	346-5445
Picnic Director	Mukul Paithane	273-6479
Web Master	Yogesh Gupta	868-5160

### Members at large

Preetha Agrawal	Thirumal Areti
Bhushan Apte	Srinath Bhalte
Chetan Mehta	Sanjay Mittal
Rumy Mohta	Ashok Nair
Shardul Pandya	Badri Pulavarthy
Subashish Sircar	Merlin Tiwari

Web Address: [WWW.IAVA.US](http://WWW.IAVA.US)



### Republic Day Celebration

**Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

(2:00 PM-6:00 PM)

Cultural Center Of India (CCI)

6641 Ironbridge Parkway, Chester, Va. 23831

Complimentary dinner will be provided to 1000 people.  
U.S. Army Band will play to celebrate this cultural event.

**Become IAVA member at Republic Day Celebration and receive:**

- 10% off coupon at Malabar**
- 5% off coupon at Indo-Pak Grocery**
- 5% off coupon at Indian Pastry House**

IAVA is looking for volunteers, *Student volunteers* can earn community hours by helping IAVA in various activities.

## IAVA School Project

**Objective:** To supply refurbished desktops and/or laptops to inner city schools who are in urgent need.

**Target Population:** All kids specifically inner city kids in Richmond city schools.

**Process:** Collect refurbished computers from the Asian Indian community during (and/or after) Jan. 25, 2009.

We request people to bring their old "working" desktops and/or laptops which are wiped clean previously. IAVA will then sort the hardware and deliver it to area schools. The collected desktops/laptops will be distributed as per the school requirements. IAVA will request CCI to hold the hardware in their storage facilities until they can be distributed.

**Caution:** Please remove all personal and private material off the hard drive. In addition, please be diligent in removing, if any, offensive material from the hard drive.

**Contact Person:** Rummy Mohta at RICHTRVL@aol.com

**Care to share some ideas!** We always welcome new ideas and suggestions to improve the Association's activities. If you are interested in writing an article for an upcoming issue or would like to share ideas please call me at 804-754-3242 or email me at [dubeyrr@gmail.com](mailto:dubeyrr@gmail.com) ..**Rajendra R Dubey**

**Editor**

### Upcoming sport events in 2009:

IAVA will be organizing Cricket in April and Table Tennis and Chess tournaments in September of 2009. Please Contact Sanjay Singhvi at 804-402-3913 for further information.

### IAVA Membership Benefits for 2009

Membership fee for IAVA is \$20 per family and \$10 for singles.  
(Family membership includes member, spouse and dependent children)

Programs	Members	Non-members
<b>Republic Day Program</b> Jan 25, 2009	Complimentary Dinner for Family (special menu)	Carry-out Dinner boxes
<b>Antakshari Competition</b> (March 2009)	Free entry for family only members can compete	\$5 per person
<b>Picnic</b> (May 2009)	Free for the family	\$5 per person
<b>Camping</b> (July 2009)	\$20 per person	\$30 per person
<b>Independence Day Prog.</b> (August 2009)	Complimentary Dinner for Family (special menu)	Carry-out Dinner boxes
<b>Tournament (Chess &amp; Ping Pong)</b> (Sept. 2009)	\$15 per participant	\$25 per participant
<b>Celebrity Music Program</b> (Oct.-Nov.)	Discounted Ticket	Full Ticket Price
<b>India Directory</b> (May)	Names in Highlighted text	Names in plain text

## THE MITTAL TEAM



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*Wishing you a prosperous and happy New Year!*

If your goals for 2009 include buying or selling a home, please give me a call. I have a thorough knowledge of the Richmond area and a complete understanding of the real estate market.

It is a great year to achieve your real estate dreams, and I am ready to help!

**LET ME ASSIST YOU IN MAKING YOUR REAL ESTATE DREAMS COME TRUE!**

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

### Special offer!

For anyone who signs up for India Association Membership on Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> Republic Day celebrations will receive 5% off their grocery

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Call: 804-346-4692

## Republic Day Celebration at CCI on January 25, 2009

India Association of Virginia (IAVA) will celebrate India's Republic Day on Sunday, January 25, 2009 at 2:00 P.M. at the Cultural Center of India (CCI).

Some of the important attractions of this celebration will be: **The U.S. Army Band Performance** — For the first time ever, **The U.S. Army Band** will be performing to celebrate India's cultural event. They are looking forward to performing for a **large audience** between 2:30 to 3:30 PM. We are hoping that you will attend and help show your appreciation.

**Exciting Group Performances** — We will be having traditional and cultural performances from the different states of India that highlight the diversity and culture of our country.

**Indian Delicacies** — To appreciate our members and acknowledge your **timely arrival**, complimentary snacks will be served to the first 250 IAVA members arriving between 2 to 2:30 PM. Some of the delicious snacks offered will be freshly prepared Jalebis, Samosas, Tea and Mango Lassi. These snacks will also be available for purchase in the dining hall during the program.

In addition to this, we have made arrangements to serve Dinner to 1000 people at the end of the program. For your convenience and to organize the effort in a coordinated way, First 400 India Association members will be served dinner in the dining hall (**Red** coupon holders). All remaining IAVA members and **non-members** will be served a carry-out dinner (**Yellow** coupon holders).

I look forward to seeing you with family and friends at the Republic Day Program. - *Surya P. Dhakar, President*

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### **Invitation to Participate**

Our efforts are in full swing to bring to you entertaining and educational cultural programs in the upcoming Indian Republic Day Celebration event on Sunday, January 25th at the Culture Center of India (2:00 - 6:00 PM). We encourage you to come forward with folk dances and songs from various regions of India. Your participation is critical in a joyful celebration of our Motherland's Republic Day Celebration. This invitation is at a first-come-first-serve basis, so please contact: Bina Shah (527-6564), Deepali Keskar (346-5445), or Simran Chiplunkar (273-6680) as soon as possible. We will welcome sponsorships for Republic day Celebrations.

- *Bina Shah, Cultural Director*

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### **Making it fun for the Kids**

The Republic Day celebration provides a great opportunity for the community to come together and show respect for the

significant milestone in India's history. Secondly, it provides a platform to build relationships with America's senior community leaders and provides them an opportunity to participate. Thirdly, and just as important, it encourages our children to learn and participate in events related to their ancestor's land.

Sometimes, the various goals conflict – Kids, being kids, end up running in front of stage while leaders are giving their speech. Not an ideal situation. Clearly, requesting the kids to not attend or for the dignitaries to not take the stage are not the solutions. We sort of need to find a middle ground. To that end, we invite you to send in your suggestions to: [mukulpaithane@yahoo.com](mailto:mukulpaithane@yahoo.com) and we will do our best to incorporate the same. In the meantime, we will be implementing the following:

1. **Pre-Arranged Seating:** Parents with kids will be encouraged to take seats in special section of the auditorium. The seating will be made a little more spacious, so parents have more flexibility with their strollers and to let the kids sit on laps.
2. **Games and Activities:** There will be games and activity sheets provided, so the kids can keep themselves entertained while following the program. If you know of something that can hold your kids' attention and will not disturb the event, you are indeed encouraged to get the same as well.
3. **Running Area:** From time to time, kids will indeed want to run around. To that end, we will have the dining area open for them. However, we do request that kids go in and out in a controlled manner and only when the program on stage is transitioning.
4. **Keep Engaged:** We would also be taking steps to balance the speeches and the dances in a manner such that the kids do not lose their patience and attention. Sometimes kids are forced to come closer to stage so they can see better - We will have projectors to project the stage onto large screens higher up and in the dining area, so the kids can feel better engaged and closer to the event.
5. **Rewards:** As a reward to encourage kids' participation and enjoyment, we will provide each kid a "free ticket" for cotton candy. If they do run around the stage or are boisterous in a disruptive manner, they may be tagged and may end up losing this fun reward. However, our intent is not to be punitive, but really give parents the tools to manage their kids' behavior at the event.

With these measures in place, and more importantly, with the help of all parents' assistance – we hope to make the Republic Day and other events an educational fun experience for our future generations. We look forward to seeing all the kids there!

- *Mukul Paithane*

## India Directory 2009

This year, we will be publishing India Directory 2009. Members' names will be highlighted in the directory and all members will receive a complimentary copy. Advertisers will receive extra copies to share with their clients. Non-members may purchase the directory for \$10. This directory will have the names and contact information of more than 2000 Indian families living in the Richmond area. To make the directory as comprehensive as possible, we are inviting the following Indian organizations to help us in including the names of their members:

- |                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| -Hindu Center of Virginia | -Cultural Center of India |
| -Richmond Kannada Sangh   | -Maratha Mandal           |
| -Richmond Tamil Sangh     | -Telugu Association       |
| -Bengali Association      | -Christian Association    |
| -Richmond Jain Sangh      | -Sikh Association         |
| -Malyali Association      | -Telugu Association       |

We sincerely hope that the above organizations would like to include their members' names in the India Directory. The organizations helping us in compiling the data base will be duly acknowledged in the directory. Members' affiliation with those organizations will also be mentioned.

*This directory will include the following information about every member:*

1. Names of member, spouse, and children
2. Profession and employer of member and spouse
3. Mailing Address, phone number, and E-mail if provided
4. Language spoken, native place in India, and years of residence in the Richmond area.

This directory will also include advertisements from well-known health care providers, real estate agents, restaurants, and grocery stores that regularly help our community and support the association. Advertisement spots will be booked only after receiving the payment. The advertisement rates (black and white) for the directory are as follows:

**Quarter page: \$350 size (2.75 x 4.25)**

**Half Page: \$550 size (5.5 x 4.25)**

**Full Page: \$1000 size (5.5 x 8.5)**

*Become IAVA member on Republic Day Program and receive 10% off Coupon at Malabar*



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## 8 Days Southbound Alaska Cruise from Seward

**Embarkation:** Seward, Alaska, June 26, 2009

**Disembarkation:** Vancouver, BC, July 3, 2009

*IAVA passengers can request Indian Vegetarian meals in addition or instead of the regular meals.*

Royal Caribbean's Radiance of the Seas offers the ultimate "at sea" experience by combining speed, added comfort, greater open spaces and sweeping ocean vistas

Cruise has been arranged as a group by Richmond Travels, LLC but passengers can take any tours or options on their own. We also encourage people to take the inland trip to Alaska. This land portion is separate from the cruise and will leave on June 22 from Richmond. We will be visiting Anchorage, Talkeetna & Denali. We will travel by motor coach as well as by Domed Double-Decker Train. A visit to Denali National Park is a must for all visitors to Alaska, and late June is the most opportune time to see wildlife at its best.

This is the 7<sup>th</sup> group that Richmond Travels LLC will be arranging to Alaska. For further information please contact Rummy Mohta at 763-5688 or 245-0377.

**Richmond Travels, LLC, will donate 50 % of the net profit from the cruise to the IAVA**

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## 2009 Indian Festival Calendar

14 <sup>th</sup> Jan, Wednesday	Makar Sankranti
25 <sup>th</sup> Jan, Sunday	India Association Republic Day Celebration (CCI, 2.00-6.00 pm)
26 <sup>th</sup> Jan, Monday	Republic Day/ Basant Panchami
23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb, Monday	Mahashivratri
09 <sup>th</sup> March, Monday	Eid-ul-Juha/Adha (by moon)
11 <sup>th</sup> March, Wednesday	Holi
14 <sup>th</sup> March, Sunday	Sikh New Year
03 <sup>rd</sup> April, Friday	Rama Navami
07 <sup>th</sup> April, Tuesday	Sri Mahaveer Jayanti
09 <sup>th</sup> April, Thursday	Hanuman Jayanti
13 <sup>th</sup> April, Monday	Baisakhi
05 <sup>th</sup> August, Wednesday	Raksha Bandhan
14 <sup>th</sup> August, Friday	Sri Krishna Janmashtami
15 <sup>th</sup> August, Saturday	Indian Independence Day
23 <sup>rd</sup> August, Sunday	Ganesh Chaturathi
19 <sup>th</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup> September	Navratra
21 <sup>st</sup> September, Monday	Eid-ul-Fitr
28 <sup>th</sup> September, Monday	Dusshera
8 <sup>th</sup> October, Thursday	Karva Chauth
17 <sup>th</sup> October, Saturday	Diwali
18 <sup>th</sup> December, Sunday	Muharram (Islamic New Year)
25 <sup>th</sup> December, Friday	Christmas

***DARPAN circulation is 2000 and is largest among all Indian community newsletters in the Richmond area***

## ALL COVERAGE Insurance

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***Wish you all a happy New Year and 26th January***

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## Get Ready for... "Antakshari 2009" ~

If you are musically inclined or have a passion to watch Hindi movies, here is an excellent opportunity to showcase your talent! This is not just a regular Antakshari – but we have added something extra to make it much more exciting and entertaining.

The much-awaited annual event will be held on April 4<sup>th</sup> 2009, so mark your calendars now. The Raseele, Rangeele and Sureele teams will again be in the spotlight, competing and entertaining us with songs and knowledge of new and old movies. Act now if you plan to participate in this event. Only nine teams will be participating on a first come first serve basis so please contact Bina Shah (527-6564), Deepali Keskar (346-5445), or Simran Chiplunkar (273-6680) as soon as possible. Entries for participation must be received before March 12<sup>th</sup>. You must be a member of India Association to participate in the Antakshari Competition.

**Day/Date: Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> 2009**

**Time: 6.00 PM**

**Location: Hindu Center of Virginia**



*Bina Shah*

Cell 804-307-4977  
Voice Mail 804-364-4430  
3450 Pump Road  
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binashah@realtyagent.com

*Bina Shah*  
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**Surya P. Dhakar, D.D.S.**

(Graduated from MCV School of Dentistry With Honors)

*A Reflection of Indian Community Activities*

**Dr. Rajendra Dubey, Editor**  
**India Association of VA**  
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**Tentative Calendar of Events, 2009**

<b>Republic Day</b>	<b>January 25, Sunday</b>
<b>Antakshri Competition</b>	<b>April 4, Saturday</b>
<b>Cricket Tournament</b>	<b>April, 2009</b>
Spring Picnic	May, 2009
Asian Festival	May 01, Saturday
Camping Trip	July, Sat-Sunday
Independence Day	August 15, Sunday
Chess & TT	September, TBD
Celebrity Music Program	TBD
VA State Fair	TBD
General Body Meeting	October, Saturday
Educational Program	October, Saturday
New Year Celebration	December 31, Friday



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**Congratulations to the 2009 IAVA Committee**



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