KHAASBAAT

A Publication for Indian Americans in Florida

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INDIANS CELEBRATE 60TH ANNUAL INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY

By NITISH S. RELE - editor@khaasbaat.com

Indian Americans throughout Florida are gearing up to celebrate the 60th annual India Independence Day festivities. Here are a few of the events we have put together that are happening in your community.

TAMPA BAY

The Federation of Indian Associations of Tampa Bay will hold the free event on Saturday, Aug. 18 at India Cultural Center. Cultural/folk dances will kick off at 3 p.m. followed by a best-dressed freedom fighter show from 4 to 4:30, with flag hoisting between 4:30 to 5 p.m. Thereafter, awards for best children's folk dance, best dressed freedom fighter, best academic student of Tampa Bay, best regional state booth, best young entrepreneur, and certificates to cultural program participants, as well a Bharat Seva Award will be given.

India Cultural Center is at 5511 Lynn Road, Tampa. For information, call FIA President Dr. V. Rao Emandi at (727) 842-1005 or President-Elect Dr. Krishan Batra at (813) 963-9857 or click on www.fia-tampabay.com

ORLANDO

The Indian American Chamber of Commerce of Central Florida (IACC) will commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Indian Independence Day at 7 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 17 by holding a big party with music, DJ, dance and dinner.

IACC is inviting everyone to attend the party to celebrate the growth of India as a democratic nation with an amazing and successful economic future. The event will be held at Clarion Hotel (Orlando International Airport), 3835 McCoy Road, Orlando.

Tickets are $50 per person and free for IACC members. To RSVP or more information, call Laurie Mooty at (407) 481-8191 or email laurie@deshpande.inc

MELBOURNE (SPACE COAST AREA)

The Indian Association of the Space Coast (IASC) will observe India Day on Saturday, Aug. 18 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Melbourne Auditorium, 625 E. Hibiscus Blvd. The association is inviting participants, choreographers and vendors.

For information, call Kumkum Pandit at (321) 761-0284, Rekha Vyas at (321) 727-0844 or check out www.iascbrevard.com

MIAMI/FORT LAUDERDALE AREA

More than 25 local Indian organizations, under the umbrella of the South Florida chapter of the Association of Indians in America (AIA) will hold Independence Day celebrations on Sunday, Aug. 19 in the South Florida area. The noon to 3 p.m. event at the Omni Auditorium (BCC North Campus), 1000 Coconut Creek Blvd., Coconut Creek, will be held indoors. Parking and admission to the event is free.

"We bring to the local community again, a joint celebration of this historic date in South Florida, and take pride in exhibiting our unified diversity," says Sabiha (Saja) Khan, president of the South Florida chapter of AIA.

This family-oriented event will feature a cultural program with a patriotic flavor, indoors in the auditorium from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

For the food lovers, local Indian restaurants will offer a mouth-watering selection of Indian cuisine. An outdoor food court will provide ample seating.

For information, call Sabiha (Saja) Khan at (954) 577.9330, Joyce Campos at (954) 752-7573 or Kitty Singh (954) 753.1635.

To participate in the cultural program, call Jayashree Sivaraman at (954) 428-3476 or email myaiasfl@gmail.com

TALLAHASSEE

The India Association of Tallahassee (IATLH) will hold Indian Independence Day celebrations on Saturday, Aug. 18. The 4 p.m. event at Heritage Hall, 500 S Bronough St., Tallahassee will be accompanied by a variety entertainment program.

IATLH also is inviting members and non-members to submit a logo for IATLH on or before Aug. 2. For the exact specifications of the logo and procedure for submitting it, check the IATLH Web site at http://www.iatlh.org. The winner will be announced during the Independence Day celebrations on Aug. 18 and the logo will be adopted as the official logo of IATLH.

For more details, call Srinivas Kishore at (850) 321-4705, Priya Ashok at (850) 907-2022, Soma Thayumana at (850) 219-9799 or click on http://www.iatlh.org.

JACKSONVILLE

The Indian Cultural Society in Jacksonville will celebrate India's 60th Independence Day on Sunday, Aug. 19 at Mandarin High School, 4831 Greenland Road. For more details, email icsjax@gmail.com.

KHAAS BAAT COMPLETES 3 YEARS
By NITISH S. RELE and SHEPHALI J. RELE - editor@khaasbaat.com

It's been challenging but fun. We have continued to grow in the three years since we launched Khaas Baat. The fruits of our dedication to serving the vast and ever-burgeoning Indian American community in Florida are evident as we reach 22,500 households throughout this wonderful state of ours.

Khaas Baat is now mailed free to homes and offices of our readers throughout the entire state of Florida every month, including the East Coast, greater Miami area and West