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FLORIDA TO HOLD INDIA REPUBLIC DAY ACTIVITIES

By NITISH S. RELE - editor@khaasbaat.com

Several cities in the Sunshine State are making preparations to hold India's 58th annual Republic Day celebrations. Here are just a few of them:

TAMPA: More than 36 Indian associations, under the umbrella of the Federation of Indian Associations (FIA) of Tampa Bay, will participate in the Republic Day event Jan. 26 at Sickles High School, 7950 Gunn Highway in Tampa. The festivities will begin with lunch at noon, followed by an India Day Parade in cooperation with 200 members of the high school marching band. Local talent will present a cultural program from 3 to 5 p.m. with Bollywood music to follow.

For information, call Event Chair Satya Shaw at (813) 842-0345 or e-mail satyashaw@aol.com

ORLANDO: The Indian American Chamber of Commerce of Central Florida (IACC -CFL) will commemorate India's Republic Day at 6 p.m. Jan. 27. It is free for IACC members; non-members pay \$50.

The venue has yet to be decided but invited guests include Orange County Mayor Richard Crotty; Ajit Lalchandani, county administrator; and George Rodon, director of Economic Trade and Tourism Development. Also participating in the festivities are the Indo-US Chamber of Commerce of Jacksonville and Tampa; Indian Caribbean Chamber of Commerce, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Orlando Regional Chamber of Commerce.

For information, email IACC President Niroo Kamdar at nirookamdar@cfl.rr.com

TALLAHASSEE: India Association of Tallahassee (www.iatlh.org) has tentatively set Jan. 26 to celebrate the Indian Republic Day with flag hoisting, patriotic songs and programs. During the celebrations, 60 copies of the books "India Unveiled" (text and photos by Robert Arnett) and "Finders Keepers?" (text by Robert Arnett and illustrations by Smita Turakhia) will be donated to Leon County schools and libraries. Arnett, county school officials and library officials will participate. Satish Kastury of Golder Associates, Tallahassee also will be felicitated. Afterward, there will be a member-only annual general body meeting.

For details, email Srinivas Kishore (president.iatlh@gmail.com), Subhasis Das (gensecretary.iatlh@gmail.com), Thayumana Somasundaram (webmaster.iatlh@gmail.com), or the website: www.iatlh.org.

GAINESVILLE: The India Cultural & Education Center in Gainesville will hold Republic Day on Jan. 26 at the center, 1115 S.W. 13th St. ICEC Youth Group is planning the event.

For more information, call (352) 379-2911 or visit www.icec-florida.org/



Republic Day Celebration In India