

March 21, 2000

ICS TRACKER

India Cultural Society

Volume 3, Issue 1



Holi Celebration

When: Sunday, April 2, 2000

Where: Bloomfield Hills Middle School Cafeteria Auditorium
4800 W Quarton Rd, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301

Tel: 248-932-6000

Social Hour & Registration: 4:30 PM –5:15 PM

Cultural Program : 5:15PM-6:15 PM

Open Dance and Dinner : 6:15PM-8:00PM

(The function will begin promptly)

Who is invited: ICS families and their guests



(Guest Tickets are available with Harvinder Singh, 248-566-9087, harvinder@ameritech.net)

Please reach the place about an early if you have some responsibility assigned to U.

The ICS Executive Committee of Year 2000

President:	Satyendra Bhama:	248-540-9458, sbhama@aol.com	Bloomfield Hills
Vice President:	Swatantra Sud	810-227-7771, ssaa@umich.edu	Brighton
General Secretary:	Harvinder Singh	810-566-9087, harvinder@ameritech.net	Shelby Township
Cultural Secretary:	Neena Malhotra	810-323-0415, malhotra@famvid.com	Sterling Heights
Jt. Cultural Secretary:	Sailaja Yadavalli	248-738-6299, sailaja@mediaone.net	West Bloomfield
	Satbir Singh	248-489-3146, apexfp@aol.com	Farmington Hills
Treasurer:	Chyawan Bansil	248-553-6758, mehakhbansil@hotmail.com	Farmington Hills
Constitutional Coordinator:	Suneel Sekhri	248-362-1624, ssekhri@prodigy.net	Troy
Youth Group Chair:	Navpreet Singh	248-489-3146, apexfp@aol.com	Farmington Hills

President's Corner

Dear members,

I would like to thank each one of you for your overwhelming confidence in me in electing me as the ICS President for the year 2000. I will do my best to meet your expectations. But remember, high expectations sometime lead to frustration. I also take this opportunity to thank Mr. Krishan Saini, my predecessor to give me the full freedom to work during year 1999. I believe that team decisions are always better than individual decisions. In year 2000, we'll all work together to emphasize team work rather than individual accomplishment. We are



committed to improving communications among members and bringing more diversity into our programs by having wider involvement. Please volunteer your talents a little bit more than you have already been doing. When you are given a responsibility, please try to give one hundred percent effort. Doing anything 100% leads to perfection. Every one of us has plenty of talents and your participation in any capacity will make this organization very strong in the future. You are encouraged to express your ideas without any fear. Your criticism is most welcome provided you come with an alternate solu-

tion. To promote Indian Culture among our kids is our sole moto.

The ICS membership has grown significantly since Jan 15. Thanks to the those who introduced new enthusiastic families. You are encouraged to introduce at least one new member if you have not done so far before April 2nd so that new members can be introduced during Holi function. Let us all join together in the new millennium to make the year 2000 as the greatest year for ICS. I am looking forward to seeing you all on April 2 for Holi and Vaisaakhi celebration!.

Satyendra Bhama

Youth Committee 2000

Navpreet Singh,	248-489-3146
Ayush Batra,	248-528-3265
Vishal Malhotra,	810-268-0249
Jaspreet Malhotra,	810-795-9439
Prerna Suri ,	248-852-4165
Suhael Momin,	248-528-0528
Darleen Saini,	248-828-4174
Nikhil Kawlra	248-828-2909
Avish Bhama	248-540-9458
Malika Kaushal,	810-323-2916
Neil Banerjee,	248-335-6614
Zoya Singh	
Ashish Batra	248-528-3265
Roopa Kohli	248-370-0754
Raashi Kapur	248-978-7077
Kavita Srivastava	734-455-3159
Manik Jain	81—323-2916
Raja Kohli	248-370-0754
Nikita Consul	734-455-9540
Lavleen Saini	248-828-4174
Sameeksha	248-540-9458

Obituary

On Feb29, 2000, Vikram Chhabra (35), an active ICS member, said good bye to us for ever. He is survived with his wife, Sujata, and two sons, Sidhartha (8) and Tanu (3). May God give enough strength

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Between Two Worlds

As the brief spring warms the landscape, northern India cuts loose for a day of hijinx and general hilarity. The festival of Holi is celebrated on the day after the full moon in early March every year. Originally a festival to celebrate good harvests and fertility of the land, Holi is now a symbolic commemoration of a legend from Hindu Mythology. The story centres around an arrogant king who resents his son Prahlada worshipping Lord Vishnu. He attempts to kill his son but fails each time. Finally, the king's sister Holika who is said to be immune to burning, sits with the boy in a huge fire. However, the prince Prahlada emerges unscathed, while his aunt burns to death. Holi commemorates this event from mythology, and huge bonfires are burnt on the eve of Holi as its symbolic representation.

This exuberant festival is also associated with the immortal love of Krishna and Radha, and hence, Holi is spread over days in Vrindavan as well as Mathura – the two cities with which Lord Krishna shared a deep affiliation. Apart from the usual fun with coloured powder and water, Holi is marked by vibrant processions which are accompanied by folk songs, dances and a general sense of abandoned vitality.

Today Holi is an excuse for Indians to shed inhibitions and caste differences for a day of spring fever and Big Fun. Teen-



agers spend the day flirting and misbehaving in the streets, adults extend the hand of peace, and everyone chases everyone else around,

throwing brightly colored powder (gulal) and water over each other. The festival's preamble begins on the night of the full moon. Bonfires are lit on street corners to cleanse the air of evil spirits and bad vibes, and to symbolize the destruction of the wicked Holika, for whom the festival was named. The following morning, the streets fill with people running, shouting, giggling and splashing. Marijuana-based bhang and thandai add to the uninhibited atmosphere. Promptly at noon, the craziness comes to an end and everyone heads to either the river or the bathtub, then inside to relax the day away and partake of candies. In the afternoon an exhausted and contented silence falls over India. Although Holi is observed all over the north, it's celebrated with spe-

cial joy and zest at Mathura, Vrindavan, Nandgaon, and Barsnar. These towns once housed the divine Krishna.

Each area celebrates Holi differently; the Bhil tribesmen of western Madhya Pradesh, who've retained many of their pre-Hindu customs, celebrate holi in a unique way. In rural Maharashtra State, where the festival is known as Ranga-panchami it is celebrated with dancing and singing. In the towns of Jaipur – especially Jaipur – the music's great, and clouds of pink, green, and turquoise powder fill the air. The grounds of Jaipur's Mandir Palace are turned into chaos, with dances, folk songs, and colored-powder confusion.

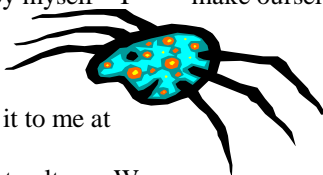
...the best legacy we can leave our children: The art of being Indian-American

Editorial Note

Hi, I'm Neil Banerjee and I am the new ICS Tracker editor. I am an eighth-grader at East Hills Middle School in Bloomfield Hills and have written articles in the school paper, but have not to date served as an editor. I am excited to be appointed to this position and have numerous plans for the ICS Tracker. However, I can't write a newsletter by myself—I need YOU to send in material. Kids, adults, anybody who has something to contribute, send it in: jokes, opinions, words of wisdom, comments on the Tracker, anything . . . e-mail it to me at nb1986@hotmail.com.

Also, I'd like to say a few words about culture. We are Indians living in America, and I believe that we need to hang on to the richness of our Indian heritage, but also incorporate the diversity of American culture into our lives. Indian

culture we get through the India Culture Society, but we don't exactly have an ACS to attend. Instead, we must do this on our own, for America has a diverse and unique culture. Go to movies . . . listen to American radio stations . . . watch American TV shows. By merging both cultures into our everyday life, we can make ourselves better people.



Yours Truly,
Neil Banerjee

Vote of Thanks: *by out-going President, Krishan Saini*

Dear Fellow ICS Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartiest gratitude towards all of you for making the year 1999 a memorable year for all of us. All the activities that took place during this time were well arranged/attended and appreciated by the members and non-members both. At all times it looked as if everyone of you were giving your best shots to make this ICS move forward with the vision that we wanted to see.

Last Saturday, the 15th of January 2000, we had the general body meeting and the elections for the year 2000. It was attended by 32 ICS families (including 2 new members). That calls for a very well attended function and the quorum for the election was met. Mr. Suneel Sekhri, our chairperson for the election committee, did a very fair and informative election in a very non-biased way. The validity of the ballots were checked by Rashmi Upadhaya, Dr. Inder Saini, Suneel Sekhri and myself. There were 2 candidates for the position of President, Mr. Satyendra Bhama and Mr. Satbir Singh.

A total of 71 votes were cast (including absentee votes). To the best of my recollection, Mr. Bhama received 51 votes and Mr. Satbir Singh received 20 votes. Mr. Suneel Sekhri declared Mr. Bhama to be the winner, and hence he became the new ICS President for the year 2000.

I urge all the members to give their full support to Mr. Bhama in his future endeavors. I want to tell you that this society is in good hands and I'm confident that Mr. Bhama will lead it to its goal.

The ICS Diwali 1999 video tapes are now available at a nominal cost of \$12. I would like to thank Mr. Anil Lal for taking the responsibility for the video production and making it available for the ICS members in time. Please contact me, **Krishan Saini**, email: groupics@india.com, Tel: **248-828-4174**, so that I could reserve your copies.

The ICS photographs can still be ordered through **Satyendra Bhama**, sbhama@aol.com, Tel: **248-540-9458**.

Again, my personal thanks to

- **Mr. Krishan Srivastava**, the Vice President, who always had the driving force to keep up with the ICS vision and uplifting its commitments.
- **Mr. Satyendra Bhama**, General Secretary, for keeping all of us well informed through e-mails and the ICS Tracker, phone calls and for living up to the expectations that I ever dreamed of. The ICS Calendar, and the artfully designed Diwali brochure are the memorable contribution.
- **Dr. Mushtaque Ali Syed**, Treasurer for keeping the accounts at its best at all times. And kept everybody informed about the financial status of the society.
- **Mr. Subhash Mahendru**, Cultural Secretary, for making the cultural program a success at the Diwali festival. And his advice whenever we needed it to keep up with the ICS commitments.
- **Dr. Inder Jit Saini**, Constitutional coordinator, for making the ICS by-laws/constitution updated.
- **Sameeksha Bhama**, the youth committee chairperson, for all of her hard work and for making the ICS Tracker very successful in delivering not only the ICS information, but other in depth stories and articles.
- All the participants who attended all the festivities that we had and made it successful.

Thanks from the bottom of my heart as I hand over the presidency into the new millennium to Mr. Satyendra Bhama.

Sincerely,

Krishan Mohan Saini
President (1999-2000), January 18, 2000

Holi Function: Your Responsibilities

For guest tickets, please contact
Harvinder Singh at 810-566-9087,
hsingh4@visteon.com

Rita Momin
Arun Jauhar
Jyoti Chaku
Shikha Goyal

Guest Tickets:

Adult: \$10,
Youth: (6-18Yrs): \$5,
Kid (2-5Yrs): \$2
Visiting parents: \$0

Please confirm your attendance
(adult + kids) by 3/27/00.

Committees

We propose the formulation of the following ad-hoc committees for helping out the arrangements for Holi celebration. If you would like to serve on these committees, please contact us.

Reception:

Harvinder Singh, chair
Chyayan Bansil
Rashmi Upadhyaya
Dolly Batra
Inderjit Saini
Ritu Jauhar

Stage:

Suneel Sekhri, chair
Satbir Singh
Swatantra Sud

Decoration & The Hall Arrangement

Sailaja Yadavalli, chair
Sonia Singh
Jyothi Raman

Cultural Committee

Neena Malhotra, chair
Salaja Yadavalli
Navpreet Singh
Satish Madan

Food:

Sunita Bhamra, chair
Sudha Sud
Vijaya Saini
Sonia Singh
Surjit Kohli

Discipline:

Krishan Saini, chair
Salim Momin
Arun Batra

New members should furnish the following information if they would like to join the ICS

Last name
First Name
Spouse First Name
email
phone number
street name, apt #
city, state, zip
First kid's name, date of birth (month/day/year)
Second kid's name, (month/day/year)
Third kid's name, (month/day/year)

Your sponsorer Name (should an ICS member):

ICS Newsletter Staff

Editor

Neil Banerjee

Advisor:

Sameeksha Bhamra

Interested in contributing to the ICS Tracker?

Contact Sameeksha Bhamra at
Meeksha81@aol.com
or 248.540.9458

Perplexing Paradox

A few centuries ago, a law teacher came across a student who was willing to learn but was unable to pay the fee. The student struck a deal saying 'I would pay your fee the day I win my first case in the court'. Teacher agreed and proceeded with the law course. When the course was finished and teacher started pestering the student to pay the fee, student reminded the deal and pushed days. Fed up with this, the teacher decided to sue the student in the court of law and both of them decided to argue for themselves.



The teacher put forward his argument saying : "If I win this case, as per the court of law, student has to pay me. And if I lose the case, student will still pay me because he would have won his first case. So either way I will have to get the money ". Equally brilliant student argued back saying : "If I win the case, as per the court of law, I don't have to pay anything to the teacher. And if I lose the case, I don't have to pay him because I haven't won my first case yet. So either way, I am not going to pay the teacher anything ". This is one of the greatest paradoxes ever recorded in history.