



samachar

JUL-SEP
2015

Official Newsletter of the India Association of Memphis

Editorial – What's happening?

- Maya Nair

By the time you read this issue, it may already be late, but go on and read away as this note not only is our attempt to give you a teaser of things that happened and that are yet to come, but is also my hello to you as Editor! :) Many times we get so involved in the smaller things that we lose the bigger picture. So even if we chase our everyday goals and things we need to get through, it is important that we always remain focused on what we want to achieve. Somewhat like what we do at IAM. Even though we are focused on putting a publication that our readers enjoy, we never lose sight of our bigger goal and that is to constantly add value to our community.

With the first ever Summer Camp by IAM executed well by Youth committee in July, Independence day celebration in August and IAM Sports events that were conducted through August through October, we have tried to provide a great opportunity and platform for our people, especially the youth, to participate and put forward their thoughts. We were proud to see the young talents in our youth committee that conducted Summer Camp and Independence day event with detailed planning and determination.

There's a lot more coming your way courtesy India Fest - from food for the soul to workshops, from Bollywood dances to Shopping...there will be a lot you can do. However, what continues to be the highlight of the festival is all the food, shopping, the jewelry, the henna and so forth - that women especially seem to enjoy.

Do you remember the recurring food memory from your childhood like the first time you tasted an incredible dish that your mom cooked, or the moment you discovered some new likings.....yum! Some days when I am stuck in mucky traffic, all I can dream of is a hot plate of pakoras or something comforting to come home to. How I wish!! Those are the days I miss India for its myriad food options and it is at India Fest that my taste buds gets to relive some of it.

Well, planning for IndiaFest are well underway and I am so looking forward to it. We have a great team dedicated and determined to bring you India to Memphis. Hope you will join us to enjoy the great nation that will be on showcase.

It is also that time of the year when the sun plays hide and seek, but it is also the time that usually heralds the start of the Indian festive season, which means uncontrollable feasting and we play loose with our diet, and of course that continues through the end of year with Thanksgiving and Christmas. With all the celebrations and trick or treating, hope that you are able to enjoy a lot of family time.

I hope everyone continues to enjoy the spirit of celebration and festivities. We will continue to keep you updated with things happening around here. Without rambling on any further, that pretty much covers the quarter from our side. But there's going to be a lot of buzz all through December, so stay tuned so you do not miss out on it.

See you in December, and until then, here's hoping you have a spirited Diwali!

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Upcoming Events:

- India Fest - Nov 7th
- GBM - Dec 12th

GLIMPSES FROM INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS : Special KUDOS to IAM YOUTH COMMITTEE



EMPOWER IMPRESS

FedEx is proud to recognize the achievements and accomplishments of the India Association of Memphis. We applaud and admire how they're strengthening their community with a job well done.



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Dr. A. P. J. ABDUL KALAM, THE PEOPLE'S PRESIDENT OF INDIA

- C.P. CHANDRADAS

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the eleventh President of India and one of the most eminent scientists of India died at Shillong on 27th July at 6:30 p.m. while addressing the students of the IIM, Shillong on the subject "Making the World more livable". Before his presentation, one of his advisors wanted to know from him how he should be remembered in future. "As a teacher" he replied.

On entering the hall to make his presentation he thought it proper to thank the security guard at the gate. He asked him whether he has taken food in time and got his reply. Then he entered the podium and while starting his presentation suddenly collapsed and the doctors in the nearby hospital pronounced him dead. His life came to an end fulfilling his dream of teaching students in life.

He was born in a poor fisherman family in the temple town of Rameshwaram. His close friends in childhood were the children of the temple priests and fishermen in the locality. This friendship stood the test of time throughout his life.

After taking a degree in engineering he served the Defense Research Development Organization for the Government of India and later in the highest position in the Indian Space Research Organization. He was in a position to successfully launch the satellite SLV3 and this was during the period when A.B. Vajpai was the Prime Minister of India. He was conferred the highest civilian award of Bharat Ratna and later was selected as the Presidential Nominee by the Prime Minister. During his stewardship as President he brought glory and divinity to the highest office in the most populace parliamentary democracy in the world.

During his service as a scientist and later as the President he maintained very high standards in public life. He gave credit to all the members of his



team for their achievements, while for failures he himself took the blame and in this way he behaved differently from many others in public life. The government officials have been open in their statements, that it was a pleasure and a privilege to work with him.

When he was sworn in as the President he was particular to invite many of his close friends from Rameshwaram. The then Prime Minister made all arrangements to bring his friends as VIPs and all his friends were present during in the swearing in ceremony on 25/07/02. They felt proud of their friendship and enjoyed his hospitality at the Rashtrapathi Bhavan. After their return to Rameshwaram, Dr. Kalam paid all their expenses for travel and boarding and this surprised the nation.

In the same manner while laying down office he politely rejected the offer of the Government for a special train to take his personal belongings to Tamil Nadu as he was taking only three boxes (one for computer, one for clothes and one for select books) and there was no necessity for a train to shift this to Tamil Nadu!

Continued....

Dr. A. P. J. ABDUL KALAM, THE PEOPLE'S PRESIDENT OF INDIA

- Contd

He has written several books on scientific subjects and on the country's development. Wings of Fire, My Journey, India 2020, to name a few. This writer has always felt the book on India 2020 provided the pathway to the whole nation. Dr. Kalam even conducted study classes on this to the Members of Parliament and the Members of State Legislatures of the country and such an incident has never taken place before or thereafter. The occupant of the Rashtrapathi Bhavan emerged as a great teacher to the people of India.

He was in a position to sell his ideas to lakhs of students in the country by one to one contact at select gatherings while in office and later for nine years till his death. He wanted them to "dream and think big" and the students with all excitement asked him questions and he politely answered as an elder brother. No other person in public life has devoted this much attention to lakhs of students in the country who flocked to him from all states during his Presidentship till 20/06/07 and thereafter.

He was a humanist and he had real concern for the underdogs of Indian society. This writer recalls an incident which electrified all the Keralites. Dr. Kalam agreed to participate in a public function at Ernakulam. A disabled boy in an orphanage at Calicut wanted to meet the President and requested for an audience at Ernakulam through an email. Within 24 hours the boy was informed that he need not take a trip to Ernakulam. Dr. Kalam visited him at the orphanage at Calicut.

He glorified the post of the President by "opening the imposing gates of the Presidential Palace to the students, the teachers and the common man of India." (The Washington Post) All this to his credit because he served the country from the bottom of his heart without any political agenda. He only had a national agenda in the country's interest for the upliftment for the millions in the land. Salutations to the greatest PEOPLE'S PRESIDENT OF INDIA.

He will be remembered forever and ever.



MPL - MEMPHIS PREMIER LEAGUE SEASON 2



This was an incredible effort to increase awareness of Cricket among people in Memphis, Little Rock and Jonesboro and to diversify Cricket among existing Cricket clubs and to promote Cricket to the next level. Kudos to Vishal Chheda, Sports Director & Trustee IAM for the successful execution of Memphis Premier League (MPL Season 2) in Memphis.

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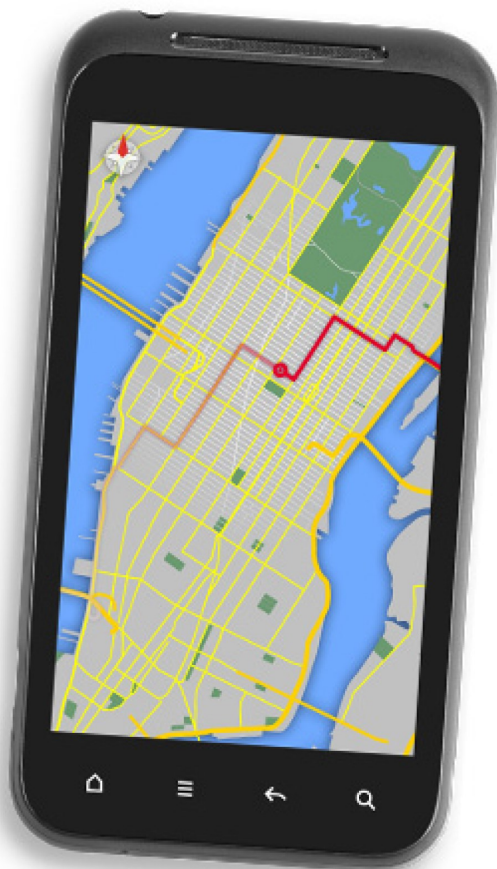
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A SPECK IN THE SKY

- AJAY MADHAVAN

"Me too, Me too" squealed my four year old when he saw the steady breeze help his kite rise majestically into the evening sky. With every tug to the tethered string, the kite responded by moving up a little higher. As I handed over the spindle to my son, I couldn't help but marvel at the gracefulness with which the kite ascended. I was helping him get to know the 'Kite' and the joy of flying kites as I knew it from my childhood. Back then, the exhilaration of seeing your kite rise up and the horror of getting the kite's string cut by a fellow kite flyer provided enough excitement and elevated emotions that everything else was relegated to the background.

To fly a kite, you need the kite itself, a lengthy string to tether it and a spindle on which the string is reeled. Kites come in different colors, forms and sizes with and without accessories. The one we were flying was a plain one without any bells and whistles. Growing up, I learnt that aside from the kite, the string is a critical piece of equipment used to control the kite as well as secure it from other adversarial kites. It is important because in a duel of kites high up in the air the victorious kite is the one whose string has the ability to slice and dice the string of the other kite leaving it lifeless and floating high up in the sky. Popularly known as 'manja' in India, these special strings attain their cutting prowess by coating them with powdered glass and a glue made from all-purpose flour. The gashes on the fingers from dealing with reels of 'manja' during kite flying season was a dead giveaway that one was an avid kite flyer. Kites have come a long way through history with a few sources (<https://en.wikipedia.org/?title=Kite>) suggesting kite flying to be a 3000 year old sport. Depending on whom you ask, kites originated either in China or the South Sea Islands where they were used to catch fish. In addition to fishing, kites were also used to pass secret messages in times of war. Certain types of large kites were also used to haul spies over enemy territory. Other interesting historical anecdotes about kites can be found in the 2004 issue of the SACU's China Eye magazine (<http://www.sacu.org/kitehistory.html>).

A kite can be flown in large open spaces such as parks, public playing fields or a beach where there is a little wind to help the kite launch and lift. Just make sure the large open space is not next to an airport. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has a regulation that prohibits flying kites within five miles of an airport without prior approval. Closer to home the city of Collierville has had an annual kite flying day since the past two years in the month of April (<http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/local-news/focus-community-flying-high>).


As the evening sun set it was time to land our kite down onto the ground. I was helping my son wind down the reel and before I could ask him if he had any fun at all, he questioned me "When are we doing this next?"



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LEARNING WITH THE LONG RUN

KUMON



Kitchen Couture

BANANA BREAD

“Over-ripe bananas on the kitchen counter once again!” If you end up in this situation more often than you would like to, here is a simple bread recipe that satisfies your guilty conscience and your sweet tooth both at the same time!

Ingredients:

1/2 cup Oil
1 cup Sugar
2 beaten Eggs
2-3 Bananas (ripe)
2 cups All Purpose Flour
1 tsp. Baking Soda
1/2 tsp. Baking Powder
3 tbsp. Milk
1/2 tsp. Vanilla Extract
1/2 cup Nuts OR 6 oz. (approx. 1 cup) Chocolate Chips (optional)



Methods:

Grease and flour a loaf pan. Heat oven to 350° F.

In a large bowl, beat oil and sugar till well combined. Add the beaten eggs, bananas and beat well. In a medium bowl mix flour, baking soda and baking powder. Add the flour mixture to the wet banana mix; beat until well blended. Stir in milk and vanilla.

Stir in nuts, if desired. Chocolate lovers can substitute chocolate chips for nuts – a favorite with kids!

Pour batter into the prepared loaf pan. Bake for approximately 1 hour (baking time may vary with oven type). Cool completely; slice and enjoy! For storage, wrap in aluminum foil.

Tip: Tastes better the next day.

Recipe courtesy: www.cooks.com

Recipe contributed by Uma Nambiar. She can be reached at uma_nam@yahoo.com

ANNOUNCEMENT

The IAM Annual General Body Meeting will be held on Dec 12th 2015 at the Cordova Community Center. Please come and vote to elect the 2016 Executive Committee and Trustees.

INDIA FEST 2015 - "WEDDINGS OF INDIA"

Take a trip to India without leaving Memphis, without a need for Visa and without even setting foot at the airport, but how? Just head for India Fest at Agricenter on Saturday Nov 7th for a perfect family outing!

India Association of Memphis (IAM) will be hosting a day full of Indian culture at India Fest. Now in its 13th consecutive year, India Fest is an annual celebration of Indian food, music, dance and costumes seen only once a year at such a large scale in Memphis.

Every year, a different theme is picked to highlight a different aspect of Indian culture. The theme for the fest this year is "Weddings of India". The wedding culture of a land with diverse ethnicity, religion, and language will be on display in all its opulent extravagance.

The festival arena will be full of the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of India and will offer a glimpse at the real hustle and bustle of India with over 100 foods, clothing and jewelry vendors attracting around some 10,000 hungry shoppers.

There will be an endless list of activities and entertaining performances for the visitors. The event will feature dances, authentic Indian food, intricate henna tattoos, Bollywood dances, cooking demonstrations, bazaar as well as plenty of activities for children. The wide array of fashion clothing, crafts, and jewelry displayed by vendors attract people from all walks of life from all over the Mid-South.

Dances of India are popular worldwide for their colorful costumes and enthralling performances and it is a treat to watch the young talents perform. There will also be dance workshops to skillfully guide you into the magical world of Bollywood dance and teach you how to swing and shake your hips like you've never done before!

A "wedding" festival would be nothing without the opportunity to feast. The aroma of Indian food will be wafting in the air as the event will serve a wide variety of authentic Indian foods. These are some of the most popular food in India and are typically not served in restaurants. Indian cooking tends to be an enigma with all the different spices and the complexity of preparations, and people generally believe it is too complex to learn. But fear not! There will be an expert cooks from the community who will break it down in their cooking demos so you can try and make some of this Indian food at home.

Every year, India Fest has more than 200 volunteers including many children, teens, and young adults mainly from Germantown, Collierville and Memphis. The younger generations take pride in upholding and propagating their cultural traditions. Over the last couple of years, the fest has been overwhelmed by support from the entire Mid-South community and not just the Indian diaspora, thus making this festival a great event. India Fest is a way to celebrate and weave the rich cultural threads of India with the Mid South community.

This is what one of the visitors had to say- "It is a great experience! If you are not an Indian, it is a great way to get to know this fascinating culture. The food is wonderful and is inexpensive so it is a great way to try new foods. Everyone is so friendly, you are sure to have a good time."

The festival will run from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Saturday Nov 7th 2015 at the Agricenter, Memphis. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$2 for ages 12 and under. To support the Mid-south Food Bank, kids under 12 years are encouraged to bring in 2 or more cans of food and gain free entry. For more information, visit www.indiafestmemphis.org

Come and join this incredible fest, explore and enjoy what you cannot elsewhere. Soak in the Indian culture, taste the great food and learn about the Indian wedding traditions.

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On behalf of our 3,600 employees in India and 66,000 employees across the globe, International Paper is proud to sponsor the 2014 India Fest.

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INTERNATIONAL PAPER

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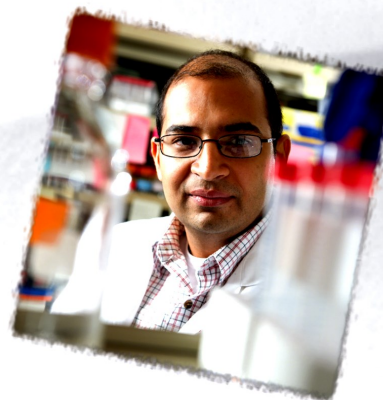
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DIWALI POEM

- Jyoti Jha

Diwali is a celebration of lights
 With full of joy and happiness
 We kindly lit the candles
 To forget the dark and embrace the light.
 And that's we celebrate!
 Among the family & friends
 We share the good things
 Like shaking hands and sharing sweets,

To flow the love of peace!
 And that's how we never forget!
 We pray to God Ganesha
 And Goddess Laxmi
 To show us the right path,
 That we promise!
 Diwali is a celebration of Lights.



Become an IAM Member Today!

When you become a member, you support all events and activities that IAM organizes and at the same time gain a better perspective of our community as an individual or as a family, and simultaneously help the community to remain connected and united. IAM provides many opportunities for social, networking, community and cultural development, express their talents and expose them to Indian culture. You can become a member at <http://iamemphis.org>

There are numerous round the year events for Indian community to stay in touch with the Indian Culture:

- **INDIA REPUBLIC DAY**
- **HOLI**
- **INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY**
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() Life - Family
() Life - Individual

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