Mission
It is our goal to unite and consolidate the collective energies of all Indian communities of Tampa Bay, in an effort to achieve and attain our common objectives: celebrating and observing our national holidays; promoting India’s rich culture and heritage and championing the cause of India and Indians worldwide.

FIA Achievements - 2003
URL: http://www.fia-tampabay.org

January 26, 2003: Indian Republic Day at the Indian Cultural Center, Tampa. Participants: About 1,000 people and 27 Indian associations. Chief Guest: Professor Ved Nanda, University of Colorado.

February 1-7, 2003: Swami Adhyant Nanda’s spiritual program, including Hindu philosophy, spiritual discourses, and yoga classes, at the Hindu Temple of Florida, Tampa. Participants: A large number of Indian-Americans and military personnel from MacDill Air Force Base.


Please Join
FIA Petition for a Direct Air India Flight from Orlando-Tampa to India
Sign the Petition

Contact
Chandrakant Patel, President
FIA of Tampa Bay
424 Ware Boulevard • Tampa FL 33619
Phone: (813) 623-5260
Email: info@fia-tampabay.org

India Independence Day Celebration 2003

Program
August 23, 2003
India Cultural Center
5501 Lynn Road,
Tampa, Florida
Guests of Honor

Hon. Dr. Dave Weldon, MD
Congressman

Elected to his first political office in November 1994 to serve the people of Florida's 5th Congressional District, and reelected to a fourth term in 2000, Rep. Weldon has worked to balance the federal budget and promote pro-family policies. He is recognized as a leader in space issues and has fought to bring more local government control back to states and communities. As a practicing physician and Army veteran, his background and expertise have been called upon on numerous occasions in key debates, policy discussions, and leadership positions. He is also a nationally recognized leader in promoting efforts to give parents more control over their children's education.

Rep. Weldon currently serves on the House Science Committee and the House Banking and Financial Services Committee. He serves as Vice Chairman of the Science Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, where he represents the interests of his constituents at the Kennedy Space Center, Patrick Air Force Base, Cape Canaveral Air Station, and surrounding aerospace community. He is also the co-founder and chairman of the Congressional Aerospace Caucus. Additionally, he is Chairman of the Government Reform Subcommittee on Civil Service.

Dr. Vinod Prakash

Dr. Prakash immigrated to the US in 1960. After completing his education at the MIT (USA), he taught at the University of Rhode Island and later joined the World Bank. He became active in humanitarian service in India whilst in the World Bank. He retired from the World Bank in 1987 and established a charitable organization, India Development and Relief Fund Inc (IDRF), of which he is currently the President. Under his leadership, IDRF has established numerous residential and senior secondary schools in 20 states, financed 30 mobile medical clinics in 14 states, hundreds of one-room schools, womens vocational training schools, orphanages, dorms, rehabilitation of children/adults. IDRF raised about $300,000 for the Maharasthra earthquake in 1993, $3,000,000 for the Kargil crisis in 1999, $550,000 for the Orissa cyclone, $2.9 million for the devastating earthquake in Gujarat in 2001. In all, IDRF has raised about $13 million from thousands of generous donors in the US for the underprivileged in India. IDRF's motto: service to humanity is service to God.

Dr. Basanti Tariyal

Dr. Tariyal, had his PhD from University of Toronto, and is a telecommunications consultant in the field of fiber optics technology and intellectual property. He retired from Lucent Technologies as operations vice president and chief technology officer in-charge of the optical products business unit in 1999. Dr. Tariyal has had a diverse career, which included research management and senior executive positions, both in US and India. He is a member of Who's Who Worldwide and was also awarded the Outstanding Indian American Award in the field of applied sciences by the FIIA in 1995. He is a very active community leader and has organized the Children's Hindu Camps, Visva Hindu Parishad chapter in Atlanta. He is presently the National coordinator of Ekavideyalya project in the USA and the Director of EVF Overseas Office. He is also a founding member of the Bharat Awareness Forum. He holds frequent discussions on Gita and Mahabharat.

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Punjabi Association of America
Bengali Association of Tampa Bay
United Sikh Association
Gujarati Samaj of Tampa Bay
India Cultural Center - Tampa
Indo-US Chamber of Commerce of Tampa Bay

Cultural Program

• Vande Mataram (Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Gaam)
  Choreographer: Gopa Rautray
  Costume: Meena Ballal

Bombay Tune

• Desh Ki Dharti Sona Uggale, Uggale Heerey Moti
  Choreographer: Geeta Raj
  Participants: Radha Nath, Tara Nath, Sita Nath, Sree Sundaresh

• Albela Sajan Aayo Re & Man Mohini (Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam)
  Choreographer: Juhi & Shivani Desai
  Participants: Juhi, Shivani & Anuj Desai

Bombay Tune

• Moh Chedo Na (Lamhe)
  Choreographer: Gopa Rautray
  Participants: Karuna Pathak, Rajani Ryan, Akansha Chavan, Radhika Mehrrotra, Sangita Dora, Prachi Kulalali, Shivani Kotwala

• Kahe Chheh Chheh Maha (Devdaas)
  Choreographer: Juhi Desai
  Participants: Juhi, Shivani & Anuj Desai

Bombay Tune

• Piya Tose Naina Lage Re
  Choreographer: Geeta Raj
  Participants: Lekha Chari, Maria George

• 0 Mitwa (Lagan):
  Choreographer: Gopa Rautray
  Costume: Meena Ballal,
  Participants: Shalini Lenka, Harshila Ballal, Prachi Kulalali, Radhika Mehrrotra, Karuna Pathak, Kobita Desai, Mallika Dubey, Aditi Sharma, Meena Ballal, Rajani Ryan, Sangita Dora, Samita Behera, Varsha Maharana

Bombay Tune