

Tsunami tempers R-day 2005

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India recently. Local interfaith groups are invited to participate in the event, a release said.

In Arizona, the **India Association of Phoenix** hosted an India Nite January 29 to assist its ongoing drive to raise funds for tsunami relief. Along with its sister organizations, the Association has so far raised over \$50,000 that

will be passed on to NGOs working in India.

The **Association for India's Development**, Asha for Education, **BAPS Care India** and **Seeds India** are some of the groups the alliance is working with, said Association President Kalpana Batni. Having raised \$50,000 in the first phase, the association is hoping to collect \$250,000 this time.

Being a non-profit group that does not affiliate itself with

any religion, the Association come to serve as a conduit from India. India Nite, Saguro High School in S where about 700 people p

The elaborate program including the Koli (*fishern*) a Rajasthani number, pa remember the victims of th Dance presented *Krishna* the deity. It helps that the round the year, and people pate in Republic Day celeb

The event also draws pe form for children to show boosts their confidence fo debates."

<http://www.azi>

Students hoist flag at Virginia Tech

They were not born when the struggle for freedom took place or the Indian Constitution was ratified; yet students from India celebrate these historical events to keep in touch with home and show pride in their heritage.

At Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia, a group of Indian students began their day January 26 with a flag-hoisting ceremony at Cranwell International Center.

Kumar Mallikarjunan, associate professor in biological systems engineering and staff advisor to the **Indian Students Association**, unfurled the tricolor that had been procured from the international center. Benjamin Dixon, vice president of multicultural affairs, was present.

Following the singing of the Indian national anthem, about 50 students, the faculty and their families observed a minute of silence for the victims of the tsunami tragedy. Later, they left the grounds that were still covered in snow from the past week for a treat of coffee and donuts inside the Cranwell center.

The ISA, which has about 170 members, presented a book, *History of India* by John Keay to Dr Dixon, who spoke about what it means to be free and how students should strive toward becoming international citizens.

Prerna Khemka, cultural secretary, ISA, quizzed students about India and gave prizes to the winners.

The ISA, set up 44 years ago, provides a meeting point for Indian students and generates awareness of Indian culture on the campus.



■ Virginia students at the flag-hoisting ceremony

Diwali, Holi, Dandiya, film screenings and the Indian Independence Day are some of the special events it hosts.

The Association has been celebrating India's Republic Day since its inception, said ISA President Anurag

Mishra, a graduate research assistant in the department of biological systems engineering. "It's a matter of pride for us," said Mishra, who arrived in the United States in 2002.

— Monika Joshi

The **India Association** of the twin cities of Blacksburg, Virginia, and Minneapolis, Minnesota, joined hands with the **Indian Students Association** in Blacksburg, Virginia, to raise funds for tsunami relief. The event was held in the same spirit with an annual Roseville, Minnesota, February 26th. The event was delivered the keynote address by Shalini Thadani, secretary said.

Senator Satveer Chaudhary in Chicago Arun Kumar v typically draws between 1000. Tickets cost \$35 for the event. This is the 13th year the 32nd event.

After the Gujarat earthquake \$250,000 that helped relief now begun a drive to raise funds affected by the tsunami. "C but support the fundraiser Tamil association," Thadani said.

Vibha, a non-profit organization for privileged children, received the award. In Northern California, **Associations** celebrated individuals and groups for their contribution to the community and the world.

Lifetime Achievement award to Bedi, civilian police and Department of Peacekeeping.

Besides her professional recognition, women and adult literacy training services and treatment said. 'Her work serves as an inspiration for Americans.'

Assembly member Alber District, Cindy Bonior, Commerce, Anu Nataraj Jacob Eapen, a director Hospital Board, Fremont Fremont Police Officers honored.

A social hour, dinner, and musical performances were the highlight of the event in California, January 30.

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