



Sandesh

The Gujarati Samaj
of Western Australia (Inc)



Issue 54



February 2004

The President's Pen

A new year, a great holiday season and more activities ahead! - the Gujarati play ("Bairi ke Bala"), the Geetanjali and the change of guards at the AGM.

We acknowledge and celebrate the incredible efforts put in by members for the Gujarati play (which has required an incredible amount of hard work, planning, late nights and lots of practice nights) and the Geetanjali (for which many items are already being practiced for entry submission).

Members will note that children and youth participation is being especially encouraged for the Geetanjali by a relaxation of the emphasis on Gujarati content rules for these groups. Fuller details of all these events are contained in this copy of Sandesh.

Not covered in the rest of Sandesh is an administrative issue critical to the health and dynamism of the Samaj as we head towards the 2004-05 year:

The Samaj will be electing a new Committee at the Annual General Meeting in May 2004. We know that while there will be continuity by some committee members, a lot of positions (including all the present office bearers) will be retiring to enable new blood, fresh ideas and increased vigour to be injected into the committee structure. I urge you all to consider committing some of your time and energy to the Samaj's worthwhile cause. This is your organisation, your community and your future. If you can, please consider being an active part of it for the coming year.

There is a reason why I am tabling this issue about 3 months before the actual AGM. A good committee is one that is formed when several like-minded individuals come together and decide to act as one. This advance notice is for committed like-minded individuals to come together and plan out their contribution to the Samaj on their terms and with their vision mapped out and in place for the 2004 – 2005 year.

Pranam
Aniket Maroo

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Editorial Comment

Dear Readers

The response and level of participation at the Sports Day event on the 29th February 2004 was great to see and has begun the New Year for the Samaj with a bang! The sportsmanship of most people during this event, which was meant to bring people together for a day of fun, was wonderful. A very busy period now follows for all involved in the concluding events of the Samaj by the 2003-2004 committee and I am sure that all of you will thoroughly appreciate their efforts.

We look forward to any feedback relating to these community events. For students, the upcoming Careers Day will prove to be a great opportunity to gain some insight into your career choice and also to widen your circle of friends

We wish you all a successful year and look forward to seeing you at upcoming functions.

The Editors

New Financial Year for the Samaj starts on 1 April 2004!

Your membership for the Samaj expires on 31 March 2004. ☹

An invoice will be issued in Mid – March 2004 to enable easy renewal of your membership of the Samaj. Please attend to this matter upon receipt of the invoice. Attached to the invoice will be a consent form to document your consent to have your family's details published in the 2004 Gujarati directory. With the new Privacy Legislation in place, it is important for this form to be completed and sent back, otherwise your family details cannot be published in the 2004 Directory even if you have renewed your membership.

Look out for the invoice and consent form and complete them asap after receipt ☺

Forthcoming Events

Careers evening:	Date: 14th March 2004 Venue: Warwick Community Hall, Dorchester Ave, Warwick
In - House Play:	Date: Good Friday 2004 Venue: Performing Arts Centre, Penrhos College, Thelma Str, Como
Geetanjali:	Date: 24 th April 2004 Venue: Performing Arts Centre, Penrhos College, Thelma Str, Como
AGM:	Date: late May - details to be advised in the next issue

Gujarati Samaj has it's own Website

With the incredible skill and expertise of Sanket Sheth, the long awaited website has finally come. You will find a multitude of information and great links on the Samaj's web-site – check it now at

www.gujarati.org.au

Happy surfing !

Are you a year 10, 11 or 12 student?

Are you confused about what course to do at university?

Then come and meet recent graduates and students in various professions

The Gujarati Samaj proudly presents

Career's Evening

Sunday March 14th 2004

3-5pm at Warwick Community Hall

Guest speakers have been invited to help you make a smooth application to university

Refreshments will be provided.

This is a free for all event. So bring your friends!

Samaj Notices

Gujarati Radio program

A half hour Gujarati program is relayed on the second Saturday of every month from 3.30pm to 4.00pm on FM95.3. Youth interested in participating in this radio presentation should contact Pushpa Naran.

Transport Required

Volunteers are required to help transport Seniors from the South to the North and back again for the Senior's meetings on Fridays. Please contact senior's committee members if you are able to assist.

Chairpersons of Sub-committees for forthcoming events:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Careers evening | Priya Karia, Pushpa Naran |
| • In-house play | Rajni Sheth |
| • Constitution Review | Rajni Sheth and Chotoo Bhagat |
| • Geetanjali | Pushpa Naran, Anjana Rajani |

GUIDELINES FOR GEETANJALI 2004

1. All cultural items including music, dances (classical and contemporary), recitals, short skits, and other talent items are welcome. For the young and the youth, the items may be in any Indian cultural language although Gujarati items are especially encouraged.
2. Formal **application** for entry must be made on an **entry form** published in the current edition of the Sandesh or a photocopy thereof.
3. Entry forms can be posted to: The Secretary, Gujarati Samaj of WA, P.O. BOX 365, Hillarys WA 6923.
4. Acceptance to Geetanjali will be confirmed only after the organising committee has an opportunity to review the item. The organising committee's decision will be final.
5. All non-member participants will be required to purchase an entrance ticket.
6. Participants will be responsible for their own music, props and costumes.
7. Participants who have special requirements such as special lighting or extra props must discuss with the committee at least **14 days prior to rehearsal day**.
8. A copy of the music (preferably on a CD) or script must be handed to the organising committee on **AUDITION DAY**.
9. The CD (marked appropriately) should have **only** the relevant music/song/item included in it.
10. Dates to Diarise:
 - **Closing Date for entries: Sunday 14 March 2004**
 - **Audition Day: Saturday 3 April 2004 - 5.00pm at the Scarborough Civic Centre**
 - **Dress Rehearsal Night: Thursday 15 April 2004, details to be announced**
 - **Geetanjali Performance: Saturday 24 April 2004**

Community Announcements

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2004 Gujarati Samaj Geetanjali Entry Form

Name of group:			
Contact person: Address:			
Telephone No:			
participants	1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15.		
entry (please circle)	1.Contemporary	2.Film music	3.Traditional
Description of props & costumes	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>		
Approx. time			
	I have read the guidelines for Geetanjali 2004 and agree to abide by the rules.		
	Signature:	Date:	

Dear Members

As of the month of March, Gujarati Periodicals and parts of the Gujarati newspaper will be available at the Scarborough Library for perusal. We are also awaiting the arrival of a selection of fiction and non-fiction books for both adults and children and the arrival of these will be announced in the Sandesh. If you would like to contribute any Gujarati books (in good condition) to this collection, please contact Pushpa Naran.

Please note that the borrowing conditions of this reading material will be exactly the same as for those of municipal library books. We urge you to enjoy the selection and give us some feedback.

The collection will include:

Newspapers	Sanskar, Janama bhumi pravasi
Grahashoba	Magazine with emphasis on Indian Diet, and recipes
Chitralkha	Gujarati version of the Newsweek
Stri	A wholesome women's magazine discussing health issues, beauty tips, diet
Health & Nutrition	A magazine in ENGLISH for anyone who cannot read gujarati but is interested in the Indian aspects of health, diet and beauty, Parenthood, teenage problems - A MUST FOR ALL YOUTH
Akhand Anand	short stories

Happy reading

Greetings from all Seniors

Our Gujarati Seniors meet every Friday at Warwick Community Hall from 11:00am to 4:00pm. From 11:30am to 12:30pm Mrs Ramaben Shah conducts simple yoga classes. Thereafter there is an open session for humour, jokes, poems etc.

Committee members have thoroughly enjoyed their visits to the Senior's Group and have shared a sumptuous lunch with them. For further information contact any of the following committee members:

Mr. Kantibhai Natalwala – 9409 6302	Mrs. Bhagyarathiben Bhuva – 9401 0950
Mr. Parbatbhai Patel – 9244 8981	Mr. Gajendrabhai Bhuva – 9402 7281
Mrs. Ramaben Shah – 9203 6172	Mr. Motichand Shah – 9409 6184
Mr. Manilalbhai Karia – 9275 3212	Mr. Gulabchand Shah – 9243 4040
Mrs. Savitaben Haria – 9304 1816	

2003-2004 Committee

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MEMBER	Jigisha Patel	H: 9218 8494	charliejigs1@bigpond.com

To My Child

- Just for this morning, I am going to smile when I see your face and laugh when I feel like crying.
- Just for this morning, I will let you choose what you want to wear, and smile and say how perfect it is.
- Just for this morning, I am going to step over the laundry, and pick you up and take you to the park to play.
- Just for this morning, I will leave the dishes in the sink, and let you teach me how to put that puzzle of yours together.
- Just for this afternoon, I will unplug the telephone and keep the computer off, and sit with you in the backyard and blow bubbles.
- Just for this afternoon, I will not yell once, not even a tiny grumble when you scream and whine for the ice cream truck, and I will buy you one if he comes by.
- Just for this afternoon, I won't worry about what you are going to be when you grow up, or second-guess every decision I have made where you are concerned.
- Just for this afternoon, I will let you help me bake cookies, and I won't stand over you trying to fix them.
- Just for this afternoon, I will take us to McDonald's and buy us both a Happy Meal so you can have both toys.
- Just for this evening, I will hold you in my arms and tell you a story about how you were born and how much I love you.
- Just for this evening, I will let you splash in the tub and not get angry.
- Just for this evening, I will let you stay up late while we sit on the porch and count all the stars.
- Just for this evening, I will snuggle beside you for hours, and miss my favorite TV shows.
- Just for this evening when I run my finger through your hair as you pray, I will simply be grateful that God has given me the greatest gift ever given.
- I will think about the mothers and fathers who are searching for their missing children, the mothers and fathers who are visiting their children's graves instead of their bedrooms, and mothers and fathers who are in hospital rooms watching their children suffer senselessly, and screaming inside that they can't handle it anymore.
- And when I kiss you good night I will hold you a little tighter, a little longer. It is then, that I will thank God for you, and ask him for nothing, except one more day.....

The Positive Side of Life

- ❖ Living on Earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the sun every year.
- ❖ How long a minute is depends on what side of the bathroom door you're on.
- ❖ Birthdays are good for you; the more you have, the longer you live.
- ❖ Happiness comes through doors you didn't even know you left open.
- ❖ Ever notice that the people who are late are often much jollier than the people who have to wait for them?
- ❖ Most of us go to our grave with our music still inside of us.
- ❖ You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.
- ❖ Don't cry because it's over; smile because it happened.
- ❖ We could learn a lot from crayons: some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, some have weird names, and all are different colors....but they all exist very nicely in the same box.
- ❖ A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

Do you remember these facts about the land of your ancestors?
Follow the history of India with us over the next few issues of the Sandesh.

The Rise of Religions and the Emergence of the State

In the last few issues of the Sandesh, we have been traveling through India's historical past by looking into the Indus Valley Civilisation, and the Vedic age and the Aryans. In this issue we continue our journey with the **rise of religions and the emergence of the State and the Gupta Age.**

Buddhism and Jainism

The sixth century BC was a time of social and intellectual ferment in India. It was then that Mahavira founded the Jain religion, and Gautam Buddha attained enlightenment. The two great religions, Jainism and Buddhism, preached non-violence to all living creatures, tolerance and self-discipline, values that have become the cornerstones of the Indian ethos. The teachings of these faiths won immediate popular acceptance owing to their simplicity and practicality; the sermons of both were preached in commonly spoken languages. Later, Buddhist monks were to spread their religion south to Sri Lanka and north-east to China, Japan, Korea and the whole of South-east Asia, where it is practised till today.

Rise of the State

With land becoming property and the society being divided on the basis of occupations and castes, conflicts and disorders were bound to arise. Organised power to resolve these issues therefore emerged, gradually leading to formation of full-fledged state systems, including vast empires.

The Mauryan Empire

By the end of the third century BC, most of North India was knit together in the first great Indian empire by Chandragupta Maurya. His son Bindusara extended the Mauryan empire over virtually the entire subcontinent, giving rise to an imperial vision that was to dominate successive centuries of political aspirations. The greatest Mauryan emperor was Ashoka the Great (286-231 BC) whose successful campaigns culminated in the annexation of Kalinga (modern Orissa). Overcome by the horrors of war, he was probably the first victorious ruler to renounce war on the battlefield. Ashoka converted to Buddhism, but did not impose his faith on his subjects. Instead, he tried to convert them through edicts inscribed on rock in the local dialects, using the earliest known post-Harappan script known as Brahmi.

The Mauryan economy was essentially agrarian. The State owned huge farms and these were cultivated by slaves and farm labourers. Taxes collected on land, trade and manufacture of handicrafts were the other major sources of income during this era.

In 327 BC, Alexander of Macedonia crossed into northwest India. He conquered a large part of the Indian territory before his generals, tired of war, forced him to return home. Alexander left behind Greek governors to rule over Indian territories won by him. But with time, these regions were lost out to Indian states through conflict and slow absorption. However, the contact between the two cultures left a more lasting impact on Indian art. Sculptures of the region bear a marked Greek influence.

Following Ashoka's death in 232 BC, the Mauryan empire started disintegrating. This was an open invitation to invaders from Central Asia to seek their fortunes in India. This period saw the rise of several smaller kingdoms, which did not last very long.

The Gupta Age

The greatest empire in the fourth century AD was the Gupta empire, which ushered in the golden age of Indian history. This empire lasted for more than two centuries. It covered a large part of the Indian subcontinent, but its administration was more decentralised than that of the Maura's. Alternately waging war and entering into matrimonial alliances with the smaller kingdoms in its neighbourhood, the empire's boundaries kept fluctuating with each ruler.

The Gupta rulers patronised the Hindu religious tradition and orthodox Hinduism reasserted itself in this era. However, this period also saw the peaceful coexistence of Brahmins and Buddhists and visits by Chinese travellers like Fa Hien. The exquisite Ajanta and Ellora caves were created in this period.

This era saw the emergence of the classical art forms and development of various aspects of Indian culture and civilisation. Erudite treatises were written on a multiplicity of subjects ranging from grammar, mathematics, astronomy and medicine, to the Kamasutra, the famous treatise on the art of love. This age registered considerable progress in literature and science, particularly in astronomy and mathematics. The most outstanding literary figure of the Gupta period was Kalidasa whose choice of words and imagery brought Sanskrit drama to new heights. Aryabhata, who lived during this age, was the first Indian who made a significant contribution to astronomy.

The invasions of the White Huns signalled the end of this era of history, although at first, they were defeated by the Guptas. After the decline of the Gupta empire, north India broke into a number of separate Hindu kingdoms and was not really unified again until the coming of the Muslims.

Information taken from www.tourindia.com

Better than the dictionary-PartII

Experience : The name men give to their mistakes.

Miser: A person who lives poor so that he can die rich.

Father : (Woohoo!!) A banker provided by nature.

Criminal: A guy no different from the rest... except that he got caught.

Boss: Someone who is early when you are late and late when you are early.

Politician: One who shakes your hand before elections and your Confidence after.

Doctor: A person who kills your ills by pills, and kills you with his bills.

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2004 - THE YEAR OF SUCCESS

O' My Dear Brothers and Sisters Why do you fear?
Is it only because of destruction being so near?
Forget all your fears and celebrate year 2004 as success
year
These are the words of God, who gives us the gift for the
New Year

The gift is success, as it's our birthright,
If we follow His *Shrimat*, we'll become very light.

Today, the world is full of anger, lust and sorrow,
If we realize ourselves as peaceful souls, better will be
tomorrow.

God is also a soul, but never takes birth as human,
He plays a wonderful part, through an ordinary man.

He also reminds our sweet home, which is above sky,
And gives the wings of 'Gyan Yog' to make us fly.

Why don't you accept this godly friendship,
Success will be your birth right, there will be no hardship.

Be positive as God is our liberator,
His name is Shiva, who is also the creator.

Come forward and enlighten yourself with divine
knowledge,
Here, we get the kingdom of paradise, as this is the godly
college.

This is the only time to do it, as he says, "Do now or
Never"
Success will kiss your feet; you'll be gifted with the divine
powers.

NEETA RUPARELIA

Article Submission

Would you like to communicate any news to
the general community? Do you know of
any special achievements made by
members of the community? Are there any
issues you'd like to raise in the community?

Articles for the next issue of the Sandesh
should be e-mailed to the editors by the 15th
April 2004. Please note that only Microsoft
word documents and black & white
photographic images will be accepted. Text
should be limited to half a page in Times New
Roman, 11-point font.

***Write to the Sandesh to publish your
news, views and comments!***

Business Advertisements

Interested in advertising in the
Sandesh? Contact the editors for advertising in
the next issue of the Sandesh by the 15th April
2004.

Disclaimer

Opinions and views expressed in the
Sandesh are those of the authors and not
necessarily those of the Committee of the
Gujarati Samaj or the Editors.

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The Cracked Pot

A water bearer in China had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water. At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots of water to his house. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, for which it was made. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.

After 2 years of what was perceived to be bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house. The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you water them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house."

Each of us has our own unique flaw. But it's the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding. You've just got to take each person for what they are and look for the good in them.

Feedback column

Sports Day event

The Samaj's **Sports Day** was held on February 29th at Leeming Recreation Centre. The day was a great success with adults and children enjoying themselves in team and individual events in the following sports: soccer, netball, squash, badminton and volleyball. The day was great for socialising and was full of team spirit! Due to time constraints the 3 netball teams were combined into 2 teams that played against each other. The response for all sports was overwhelming and the Samaj looks forward to a bigger and better sports day in 2005.

The winners for the each sporting event were:

Soccer:	Nitin Naran, Sameer Morar, Mayur Morar, Jiten Doolabh, Shiresah Sasikumar	
Netball:	Swetta Desai, Jaimini Desai, Segal Patel, Rupal Parmar, Jilna Bhatt, Meera Shah, Rheya Shah, Nikita Shah, Rachna Patel	
Volleyball:	Vatsal Pindoria, Ajit Kokhani, Kalyan Bhudia, Rameshbhai Patel, Narendra Karman, Dhiresah, Mahesh Meghani	
Squash:	Men's:	Mitesh Gopal
	Under 16's:	Krishen Shah
Badminton:	Boys under 16:	Krishen Shah
	Men's singles:	Anish Shah
	Women's singles:	Aarti Chandarana
	Men's doubles:	Anil Shah and Kalpesh Kotecha
	Women's doubles:	Priya Bhagat and Savitaben Bhagat
	Mixed doubles:	Aarti Chandarana and Anand Badiani

Thanks to everyone that participated and congratulations to all the winners!

A special thanks to all the volunteers and referees that helped on the day including: Nareshbhai Patel Vipul Mehta, Vatsal Pindoria, Chotoobhai Bhagat, Kalpesh Kotecha, Anjana Rajani, Aniket Maroo, Pushpa Naran and Priya Karia