DARPAN

A Reflection of Indian Community Activities

India Association of Virginia (www.IAVA.us) Volume 27, Issue 2 - Mar 2017

A Message from the President

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your overwhelming support for IAVA in the first quarter of 2017. This is a true reflection of your approval for all the hard work my team has put in the year 2016.

The Republic day event made history in RVA! For the first time a record 1100+ of you attended the program! The attendees and guests included top notch leadership from the US congress, Virginia State, City of Richmond, Henrico and the surrounding counties. There were representations from about 12+ states on the stage, along with leadership from other regional and religious organizations standing next to us and supporting us at this event. We had representation from leadership in DC & the Virginia Beach area as well. This confers on us the added responsibility of being an **umbrella organization** to better serve our community in RVA and beyond.

We have a long list of agenda to deliver this year. I am so thankful and proud for having an awesome team (56+ strong), who are working so hard to make it all happen and deliver on our promise to serve the community. We are super excited about our signature events like Republic Day, Independence Day, Picnic, Camping & New Year's Eve and look forward to making them bigger and better with your help.

A key effort for us is to be more inclusive and active in the broader RVA community. We are excited about expanding the reach and impact of our IAVA Care program and will continue to work with the Home Again Shelter, Hands On RVA and few other organizations. Another successful initiative undertaken by IAVA Care is our collaboration with Virginia Blood Service to donate blood. I am happy to announce that we donated 14+ units of blood at our very first event on 18th March. It was very heartening to see the willingness to donate blood by our team and community members. If you are involved in community projects and would like to partner with IAVA, please reach out to us.

As promised, we will continue to focus on programs that improve your health and fitness. IAVA FIT is off to great start. We have joined hands with Sports Backers to help the runners amongst us. Every Sunday 50+ of you join us as part of this program. I want to take a moment to thank my coaches and you all who have made it a successful program. In this series, we also had our meditation event where about 60+ of you participated and benefited from the program. Stay tuned for more programs coming under IAVA FIT. IAVA-Sports is ready to hold its first Tennis tournament, and we are currently preparing the schedule for this event. Owing to a very positive response from you all, we are also planning the next sports event for the summer.

In addition to the Mega Republic day event, we had a very successful IAVA Valentines event as well. It was a memorable and fun filled evening and the theme, food, venue, DJ and participants were very much appreciated. Thanks to your awesome feedback and positive response, we will continue to offer this program every year. I would once again like to thank you all for your support and faith in IAVA. As we look to the next quarter, we are in the process of planning some BIG events, such as a Cruise, Kavi Sammelan, Picnic and Camping. Our pledge to you is that we will continue to deliver our best to serve you and look forward to your continued support.

With Warm Regards,

Rakesh Bainsla

President IAVA

Republic Day Pictures

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