India's Republic Day celebration slated for this month

BY MEENAKSHI GUPTA

January 26 is one of the most important days in the history of India. Celebrated as Republic Day of India and observed as a national holiday on this day, 1950 India became a Republic and its constitution was enacted. Republic Day is celebrated as a great national festival throughout the country, especially in the capital city of New Delhi where a grand parade is held each year. The parade, held in front of Rashtrapati Bhavan, the British-era ceremonial presidential palace, the Navy and the Air force march past in all their finery following by spectacular displays of the cultural heritage from the different states of India.

Honoring Indian veterans the Federation of Indo-Americans of Northern California (FIA) will pay tribute to those who sacrificed their lives to achieve Indian independence 59 years ago. “FIA has been observing Republic Day and Independence Day events for over 20 years,” said Rajeev Verma, Chief Financial Officer, a non-profit scholarly organization of over 30 Indo-Americans, representing more than 100,000 Indo-Americans of Northern California.

This year’s Republic Day celebration will include murtis, copperpanch, the Consul General of India, Subhash Thomas and other dignitaries. The cultural program for this event is coordinated by FIA Vice President of Cultural Affairs Vijay Athre,” said Mr. Verma. “National anthems of India and USA, patriotic songs, spoken word, dance and various plays by Indo-American youth will be followed by dinner with awards presentation.

The program also includes a recognition award ceremony. “This year we will be honoring City of San Jose recently elected councilor Ash Kalra and Ritu Verma, Milpitas Mayor. Robert Greig, community activist Vimal Jamboree, MD and Ri Khamra for their outstanding community service and for being a friend of Indo-Americans. Ash Kalra is an Indo-American who was elected as a City of San Jose Councilperson. Ritu Verma is another Indo-American who is currently a Fremont Councilperson,” said Mr. Verma.

“FIA President Romesh Jayshe, MD and Chairman Chandru Bhansali on behalf of Board of Directors and members of FIA would like to congratulate all Indo-Americans on the Republic Day celebration of India and would like them to come and enjoy the event,” he added. FIA is also seeking association membership to cover all FIA sponsored events. Details are available at the FIA official website, www.fiaonline.org.

“FIA seeks new FIA members. For more information there is a charge of $25 per admission,” said Verma. Program Coordinator.

Local heroes (continued)

BY MONICA L. BARBARA

PHOTOS COURTESY OF EDEN HOUSING

On December 11, 2009 Assembly Majority Leader Alberto Torres issued recognitions of citizens in the Assembly Districts who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and generosity in their service to the community. “Local heroes” include the Board of Directors of Eden Housing, Paddy Lee of Union City, Ernest Loya of Newark, Daniel Guzman of Union City, Endy Cereceres of Fremont, Ray Sugahara of Fremont, and John McNall of Menlo Park. In addition to the local heroes, examples, Creusos de Servicios was named the Community Partner Local Hero, Edna Hoang was named the Non-profit of the Year, and Dr. Bhagvinder Bhagra was given the Governor’s Award.

Local heroes: See Page 6

Republic Day Celebration

January 25

1-10:30 a.m.
Newark Pavilion
6480 Thornton Avenue, Newark
(510) 508-4466
www.faintline.org
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Local heroes (continued)

In its 46-year history, Tri-City Voice earned the admiration of community members for its dedication to community service. The newspaper was known for its coverage of local events and its commitment to the Tri-City area. The newspaper was founded by David Ellerly, who served as its editor and publisher until 2002. Since then, the newspaper has been owned and operated by the Tri-City Voice Management, Inc. and Eden Housing Residences, Inc.

The newspaper has been awarded numerous awards for its reporting and community service. In addition to the newspaper, the Tri-City Voice also sponsors a community garden and a food pantry.

The newspaper has been a staple of the Tri-City area for over 40 years, and its success is a testament to the dedication of its staff and the community it serves.