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Sandesh

The Message: A Newsletter from IndUS of Fox Valley

From Editors' Desk

Best wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year to all. While the year started with the tragic and somber news of the tsunami disaster in South and South East Asia, the outpouring of support for the victims of the tragedy can hearten us all. The Fox Valley community continues to do its part by supporting the efforts of local organizations in the reconstruction effort.

We received a very positive feedback on the October 2004 issue which featured several articles on the architecture of India. Each year the October issue of Sandesh will be a special issue designated to the theme of the IndUS annual banquet. The other issues will include short articles on topics of interest besides the regular columns. Please continue to contribute articles to support *Sandesh*.

Sandesh

An IndUS of Fox Valley
Publication

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Tsunami: A Lesson in Humility

On December 26th, nature sent a message, loud and clear, to the human race that it is the one who is super mighty. An earthquake of 9.0 magnitude near Banda Aceh on the island of Sumatra was responsible for a tsunami generating a 30-40 feet high deadly wave creating havoc from Southeast Asia to Somalia on African coast. As the waves rose higher so did the death toll. Over 200,000 people are dead in nations across South and Southeast Asia and over 10,000 lives were lost in several states and obliterated islands of India. Was Thomas Malthus right or was it a lesson in humility taught by nature to arrogant humankind? We the self-proclaimed conqueror of nature soon discovered how ill equipped we were in detecting this disaster to happen and how poorly prepared we were in handling a calamity of this enormity.

On the other hand this horrific tragedy also gave us a chance to explore good in us. The international help, governmental as well as private, which was initially branded stingy, has been phenomenal. IndUS of Fox Valley (IndUS) did not lose any time responding to the call of the moment. Just the next day some members of the Executive committee and the Board met and a decision was made to raise \$50,000 for the relief efforts. IndUS initiated Asia Tsunami Relief drive on December 29, 2004. The Post-Crescent joined with IndUS on December 31, 2004 and promoted IndUS effort with their "Do it!" Campaign. Thanks to the generosity and responsiveness of the Fox Valley community, just over \$165,000 has been collected. This is even more remarkable considering that several thousand valley residents have donated to various other relief funds through their churches

and corporations. Thanks to number of corporations and organizations such as Boldt Company, Megtec Systems, West Business Services, ThedaCare, Community Foundation of the Fox Valley Region, India Association of North East Wisconsin, Harmony Café, Rotary club of Appleton, Plexus Corporation Charitable Foundation, Toward Community: Unity in Diversity, etc. who supported IndUS effort. On Feb 12, 2005 at the Preethinrityeshwar ballet at Xavier High School, IndUS presented checks to Mayor Hanna (for Americares), Principal Mr. Matt Reynebeau (for Catholic Relief Services), Bishop Jim Justman (for Lutheran World Relief) and Jeff Werner, Secretary, Rotary club of Appleton (for Save the Children). These four relief agencies were selected based on the recommendations of the American Institute of Philanthropy. IndUS has committed the entire collection from this effort to provide immediate relief in the entire region to the neediest in the devastated region.

Fox Valley adopt a Tsunami Ravaged fishing village in India

As we enter Phase II, the focus shifts to rehabilitation and reconstruction. We are gratified that many including individuals, corporations/businesses and organizations in the valley have expressed support for an effort for a long term rehabilitation of survivors. IndUS, in collaboration with Rotary Club of Pondicherry Aurocity, India, has identified Periyakuppam, a tiny fishing village in Tamilnadu, for its adopt-a-village program. Replacing the twenty mechanized boats and restoring the livelihoods of fishermen in this village is

our top priority. A total of 904 mechanized boats and several thousand more non-mechanized boats have been destroyed in the Cuddalore district alone. Each \$3,500 raised will provide help to buy a fiberglass reinforced hull of a catamaran, an out-board engine and a set of fishing nets, supporting the livelihood of a group of five fishermen and their families. Through its association with the local Rotary club and an NGO, IndUS will not only be able to closely monitor the implementation but also undertake long term, comprehensive rehabilitation of Periyakuppam. Eventually, we also hope to link a school and hospital in the Valley with school and healthcare facility in the adopted village.

A benefit concert NEW STAR (Northeast Wisconsin Supports Tsunami Adoption Relief) co-sponsored by IndUS of Fox Valley and Time Warner Cable, Green Bay Division will be held on Feb. 26, 2005 at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center to raise money to adopt Periyakuppam. Congressman Mark Green, Affinity Health System and Secura Insurance Company have provided the PSA of the concert. In addition to collaboration with Time Warner for this benefit concert, IndUS is working with several other organizations in the valley, supporting Adopt-a-village project, to raise \$70,000 needed to purchase 20 boats with outboard engine and set of fishing nets. We are delighted that Rotary club of Appleton, the

Neenah School District and Outagamie County have joined hands with IndUS in this project. The Rotary club will provide funds for the purchase of at least one boat and fishing nets, the Neenah School District has set a goal to raise \$15,000 through sale of T-shirts at the Diversity Fair, and Outagamie county is raising funds to provide the long term relief to fishermen families in Periyakuppam. IndUS is currently discussing with Appleton School District and East-Central Synod of Wisconsin - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the details of partnership for the project. Several individuals have donated generously for the project. We invite you to be partners in the endeavor.

- Report by Badri Varma & Ram Shet

A Visit to Cuddalore

By B. S. Sridhar

“The day after the Christmas 2004 shall remain firmly etched in my mind. As I scrolled the front page of New York Times on the 'Net, my mind raced to accounts of Krakatoa when nature, in its fury, made no distinctions in terms of age or gender or national borders and went on to claim lives around the world.

With each passing hour, the estimates of casualties and death were revised. We have lost a quarter-million lives. More than one third of the victims were children. Livelihoods were destroyed, buildings were leveled and entire communities vanished around the world. Dispelling our cynical view of human behavior, the world became one in mourning the tragedy and undertaking immediate relief work.

The tragedy became deeply personal to me, though none of the affected were among my kith and kin. And by no means, was I an exception. People

opened their hearts and wallets around the world. Everyone wanted to do something to bring relief to those affected.

I was impelled by an urge to visit the affected areas. I contacted some friends in India who were engaged in relief operations. I wanted to ascertain if my visit would be an unnecessary distraction. Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), my alma mater, is organizing a systematic survey of the psychosocial relief needs. A contingent of 90 students from TISS have been deployed to undertake the survey in several tsunami affected areas in Tamil Nadu and Andamans. Dr. Parasuraman, director of TISS, welcomed my visit. ‘Your visit will boost their morale. So, don’t hesitate to visit,’ he reassured me. I flew into Chennai, the capital of Tamil Nadu, the Indian state most ravaged by tsunami. I was reunited with two of my classmates from TISS after a

lapse of 28 years. It was a happy reunion that took some edge off the main purpose of the visit. Ms. Madhuri Menon, a practicing Human Resources Consultant has extensive background in Urban Planning and Community Development and serves on several boards of directors of nonprofit organizations. Mr. Raju Srinivasan, an industrial relations consultant is at home dealing with labor and blue-collar segments of the society. Their respective expertise, fluency in Tamil, the local language, and their compassion proved great assets as we set out on our 100-mile road trip to Cuddalore. What is it like to visit a community so devastated by the tsunami three weeks after thousands of lives were lost and thousands more lost their livelihood? Being a non-alpha male, I cannot hide my emotions easily. Yet, I did not want to add to the discomfort of others by being very obvious. The ride seemed normal. While parts of the



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journey was along the new highway and was smooth, the rest of it involved wading through humanity at a slow pace. Animals and ever-increasing variety of vehicles freely share the roads in India, jostling for space with drivers hurling friendly and not so friendly abuses at each other. This assured me that normalcy was fast returning to the hapless region!

Silver linings at the collector's office

We arrived at Cuddalore a little before noon. Our first stop was the collector's office. The collector, an official title that was created by the British to collect taxes, is the highest government official in the district. The current collector occupies the very same building once occupied by Robert Clive in 1756 while laying foundation of the future British Raj in India.

Mr. Gagan Singh Bedi, the collector, is a tall, imposing Sikh with a gentle manner. A member of the elite Indian Administrative Services, Bedi combines efficiency with empathy. The office was crowded with many tsunami victims, representatives from national and international relief organizations. Employees were very engaged and courteous toward all, a phenomenon that is rare in a typical government office anywhere, particularly in India. Rebecca Scheurer, a program operations specialist from USAID (U.S. Agency for International Development), Washington, D.C. and her colleague have been in the region for past two weeks. They were all praise for the efficiency and cooperation that they had received from the government. We were conducted through the registration area where a number of patients lined up to receive help. Unlike in the U.S., patients or

physicians do not stress privacy. No HIPPA (federal privacy rules) here! We had free access to them all. A woman in her 30s was voluble and distraught as she explained to me in Tamil how she had survived the tsunami. She was carried by the first wave high and deep into the sea and was washed right back on to the shore by the second one. She had run for her life to safety. The ferocity of the waves and memories of the scary ride still haunt her. She is glad she is still alive. But she grieves over the relatives lost. I could see her hands still shake and her voice quiver in fright.

In the women's ward I saw a dozen or so women either sleeping or too shocked to speak. Some of them are there with no visible injuries. Some have no apparent reason to be there. Dr. Balasubramanian suggested that the place has become a refuge for many who do not know what to do, now that they have lost their homes, loved ones and the boats.

In the men's ward I met Kanakavelu, 27, a mason, who single-handedly recovered 30 bodies from the raging sea. 'I was in a frenzy' Dr. Gautamdas translated for me, 'all I knew was that there were bodies. I would grab them before the sea did.' Kanakavelu suffers from flashbacks and nightmares, ever since. The video camera I used to tape helped me shield my tears from him and those around us. I mumbled my thanks to Kanakavelu in my not so fluent Tamil. Superstitions reign supreme especially when rational explanations for tragedies elude people. Kanakavelu's close friends find his behavior strange and have started attributing it to the evil spirits that escaped the dead bodies he recovered from the sea. Many of them have started shunning him. Kanakavelu is conflicted about his

good deed. Dr. Balasubramanian feels that it will take years of patient work before Kanakavelu can fully recover from the trauma. It was time for me to move on. Even in the midst of his travails, the gentle hero of Devanapattinam graciously admonished me 'Please don't be late for your lunch, sir. The cafeteria will close for the afternoon.'

From across Kanakavelu slept a little boy, Anand, who could not have been much older than my 13-year-old son, Sameer. His calm repose betrayed none of the acute separation anxiety he suffers during his waking hours. His mother watched over her sleeping child. Apparently, Anand was rescued when the tsunami threw him back on the land. In the ensuing chaos, he was separated from his parent for two full days. With dead bodies strewn around, and hell breaking loose, Anand experienced severe emotional trauma. For once, nightmares did not seem to be bothering Anand, as he slept peacefully on this January afternoon.

Beach Offers respite, reminders

After spending a good part of the afternoon at the relief camp we drove down to the beach, just a few hundred yards away. The Devapattinam beach, what remains of it, has become a tourist attraction for visitors like me. There were small tea stalls selling coffee, tea and snacks. Mercifully, no tsunami memorabilia was on sale. We made our way through the throngs of people. They were quiet, and seemed quite shocked. Much of the debris had been removed. Only the heavy debris remained. I joined them surveying the damage. To our left I found a water tank blown off its base. Right in front me was the reinforced cement concrete platform that had been ripped apart, revealing its mangled steel structure from

within. This platform belonged to a gazebo. The canopy lay some 100 feet away, ripped apart from the base. It was supposed to be first of



Photo by B. S. Sridhar

several gazebos to have dotted the beach. The gazebo project had been a part of beautification project. On the side of the platform one could see a granite commemorative plaque with inscription in Tamil. My friend Raju translated the text for me. None other than District Collector Bedi had inaugurated the project, just a few weeks before nature violently disagreed with the plan.

It was now time to touch the waves. They were gently reaching for my feet. Two 10-year old boys were running into the sea as waves fell harmlessly. A couple of adults shouted from a distance, ordering them out. They came running toward me when they saw my camera. I clicked a couple of pictures before inquiring if they were scared of the sea. Both dismissed my apprehensions with slight shrugs. They were back running into the waves all over again. For these two boys, life is still a beach.

My last stop was the boat graveyard. Boats came in all sizes and in many colors. Many had their engines missing. Damaged sides, hulls, sterns and rafts. The sea had dispensed its punishment uniformly. Few boats had been spared. In the background, earth-moving equipment was removing heavier debris. Fisherman

proved helpful in supplying me with information on horsepower and brand of motors and the size of the fishing nets needed to resume work. With no boats available they were busy, retelling the tsunami stories, as they tried to salvage parts from the damaged boats. They talked about the relief work. They are glad to be alive and are hopeful that help is on the way. A few yards from these boats stood Narayana Murthy who had an experience quite distinct from others.

Fisherman's family escapes

Murthy, who is in his mid-40s, is a fisherman who operated a fairly large boat. He made a comfortable living. Murthy did not go past eighth grade and took to fishing as a profession. His wife had even less schooling than Murthy. But education remained an important value in the Murthy household of three daughters and a son. The oldest daughter has completed her MBA and works as a financial analyst for an international investment firm in Chennai. The second daughter is preparing to become a Chartered Accountant (CPA). Their third daughter is a junior in college and their youngest, the son, is in high school. Fishing profession had treated the Murthy family well. The day tsunami struck, it was Murthy's day off. Murthy, his wife and son were fortunate. They had a running start over the approaching tsunami and could run toward safety as the killer waves came thrashing. As they abandoned their home, Murthy said, they were quite confident that they had avoided the worst 'The death'. Their attention turned next to their possessions. As the waves submerged their home they feared a major loss. It was not the loss of the building, or the jewelry or any other valuables they

had left behind. The most valuable possession the house contained, according to Murthy, were the college diplomas of their daughters. It is only when the daughters came home from Chennai and explained to the parents that they could obtain copies that they both sighed in relief. It was getting dark by now as I borrowed Madhuri's cell phone to dial Mr. Kenneth, a lecturer in social work at Chennai. He is in charge of transportation and logistics that would bring together students from TISS, my alma mater, and their counterparts from several schools of social work in Tamil Nadu.

We arrived at Rasi Kalyana Mandapam, a wedding hall, in a village six miles further south of Cuddalore. This would be the staging ground for some ninety graduate students of social work as they embark on the most extensive socio-psychological need assessment across entire state of Tamil Nadu. They would be administering a survey and conducting focus groups for the next two weeks. To undertake survey of this magnitude in Tamil Nadu, especially in a rural setting, knowledge of Tamil language is absolutely essential. There are over twenty officially recognized, distinct languages in India and people from different states speak different languages. Both Hindi and English are link languages but neither of them are of much use in rural Tamil Nadu. Students from TISS hail from different states. They come from Uttaranachal to the north, Meghalaya and Assam to the east; Maharashtra, Gujrat, Goa and Rajasthan in the west; and from three of the southern Indian states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala. The students were formed into teams with at least one member from Tamil Nadu playing the role of translator and

Continued on page 7

Tsunami's Gift

Gods of the yore, they say
 Joined hands with demons
 Dropped the might mount Meru
 In to the depths of ocean.
 They churned and churned
 Spurning all divisions
 In pursuit of eternity
 Searching for the elixir.

Waves rose mountains high
 Over the sighs of the humanity
 And the ocean bestowed its gifts
 Of an all giving cow, Kamadhenu
 An all giving tree, Kalpavrksa
 And most prized of them all
 The death defying elixir.

Before the waves could recede
 Civilizations could proceed
 The arms were retrieved
 Weapons were unleashed
 Gods and demons jostled and jostled
 To prove who was right.
 Poison flowed, and not the elixir of love.

Leisurely sips of Sumatran coffee
 On the morning after Christmas
 Woke me from my stupor

Eyes journeying lazily to the mountains
 Of garbage bags, piled high on the suburban sidewalk
 Guiltily hiding those beautiful gift wrappers
 That once held gifts many unneeded and many unwanted.

Mother Earth trembled, nay, she roared
 Nature's refresher course in humility
 Rose in the shape of monstrous waves
 From behind those mountains of garbage

Waves over waves
 hovels and hotels were leveled,
 Rich and the poor devoured
 Helpless and the hapless came in all colors
 Black, brown, white and yellow
 Once majestic palms bent in meek submission

Oceans, they say, parted for Moses
 A mighty deluge gently floated Baby Krishna
 To deliver us lessons of life.
 But can that happen now?
 Tsunami gifts us with Maya
 That tiny mighty infant on a mattress off Malaysia
 Touching a billion hearts, lifting our flagging faith,
 She ushers in a new world
 Of sharing, caring and daring to come together.

- B. S. Sridhar

The Mighty One

Beneath the ocean the earth gently slides
 Shakes up the world above it.
 Tide, the mighty, roars at jet speed
 Smashes on the distant shores.
 Waves shatter dreams, nay the very livelihood of peasants,
 fishermen and tourists alike,
 Snatch babies from mothers' arms
 And leave us as orphans in the hopeless world.

And then
 Time, the eternal takes hold and turns the tide back,
 where it came from.
 This time it is the waves of compassion, sympathy and
 empathy

Pouring out from all corners of the world,
 It moves towards the epicenter but to heal.
 It is the tide of hope where there was despair
 Sustenance where there was starvation
 Compassion where there was anger.
 Anguish, heartache and guilt latent in the volcano of
 complacency erupts,

Forming tidal waves in the sea of compassion.
 Strange it may seem this wave is even bigger than any
 I have seen before

And dwarfs the tide of destruction.
 Is the world, tired of violence, famine, Aids
 Dominance of one over the other, tries to seek solace in
 charity?

Is the heart tries to find refuge in goodness?

"Oh, Lord," I ask
 "Did you have to bring down this disaster to awaken our
 senses and rekindle our hearts.
 What name shall I call you by?"
 And I hear "I am the cause, the effect, the malady and
 the remedy.

I am the baby that slipped from mother's arm
 And I am the baby found alive on the floating mattress.
 They call me the Destroyer and the Preserver,
 So name me Tsunami"

- Shekhar Rao

News ...

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IndUS-2004

IndUS-2004 was held on November 6, 2004 at Reeve Memorial Union, UW-Oshkosh. The theme was *Architecture of India*. If the brightness of the glow in the eyes of our guests, whether looking at the posters or browsing through the books in the Exhibition hall, watching the Slide Show in the theatre, or enjoying the cultural program in the Banquet hall is a measure of success, IndUS-2004 was a great winner. "And it was an eye appealing and palate pleasing experience ..." wrote Doug Zellmer in The Northwestern. IndUS realizing that the role of social architects in building vibrant communities is as important as building structures recognized the contributions of a diverse group of social activists and volunteers by inviting them to light the lamp. They were Karen Bowen, Chair, Human Relations Council, Oshkosh; Jyoti Chander of Shama, Inc., Stevens Point; Nancy Hykes, Executive Director, Fox Cities Rotary Multicultural Center; Sue Panek, Executive Director, Oshkosh Area United Way; Bob Pederson, CEO, Goodwill Industries of North Central Wisconsin; Ram Shet, Rotarian Paul Harris Fellow; and Hlee Veng. Besides these honorees Leonard Weiss for his contribution in preserving our rich architectural heritage and John Weyenberg for promoting the cause of building homes for the needy were also recognized.



IndUS also recognized three college students Kristalee Buckbee (UW-Oshkosh), Katrina Nelson (UW-Fox Valley), and Brian Hilgeman (Lawrence University) for their outstanding volunteer work in their respective communities by awarding them scholarships.



The Keynote Speaker was Dr. Joseph Elder, Director of Center for South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison. His address was highly informative and got unremitting attention of the audience.



Like in previous years the cultural program stole the show. Besides the local talent, Asha Sharma and Swati Deo of Katha Dance Theater of Minneapolis, through their Kathak dance created a perfect ambiance and character of a Mughal court and Meenakshi Ganesan of Kaalaanjali School of Music and Dance of Madison through her Bharatnattyam performance created a picture perfect panorama of a Hindu temple architecture.



This year again the culinary magic created by Professor Peter D'souza of School of Culinary Studies, UW-Stout was a real delight.

Report by Badri Varma

Harmony Café joins IndUS in raising Asian Tsunami Relief Fund

Thursday evenings in January buzzed with poetry reading, music, dance, painting henna-tattoos and tasting Indian food. Harmony Café held four "Open Mic" nights and donated proceeds of all drink sales to Asian Tsunami Relief Fund organized by IndUS.

The series began with Ellen Kort, the first State Poet Laureate, reading her poems. Several others read their poems, some touching, some light-hearted, all giving an outlet to their emotions in face of the worst natural disaster caused by giant tsunami waves.

Following Thursdays we had a lively reggae band Unity, headed by Pita Kotobalavu from Fiji. Dileep Tannan, Sujal Beherawalla and Varsha Dixit sang Hindi songs. Pita's music blended well enough with Bollywood songs to get people dancing. Some even tried following "dandiya" moves of Indian folk dance to the rhythmic beat of sticks. Shreekant Shah's sitar recital was soothing and beautiful. Goodwill's captivating voice rang through the café touching many hearts. Several IndUS volunteers pitched in to sing, dance, paint henna, cook and serve hot savory snacks and sell donated Indian clothes. This was our way of showing that we share and we care. Harmony Café has an open offer to host "Thursday Open Mic" in future. Any takers?

Report by Sandhya Sridhar

Volunteer Recognition Dinner

On February 5, 2005, a Volunteer Dinner was hosted to recognize the contributions made by volunteers at different events, such as IndUS-2004, SEVA, SAMP, etc. Kanchan

and Dnyanesh Patkar organized several games. The highlight of the event was the selection of theme for IndUS-2005. Among several contender themes of 'Transportation', 'Music & Films', 'Diversity in India', and 'Women in India' the winner was 'Health & Wellness in India'.

Preethinrityeshwar A Ballet Based on Life of Christ

On Feb.12, '05, IndUS of Fox Valley presented *Preethinrityeshwar* as one of its many fund-raising efforts for Tsunami survivors and for their rehabilitation. The event was hosted courtesy of Xavier High in their beautiful Fine Arts Center. Dr. Francis Barboza, a renowned exponent and teacher of the classical Indian dance form Bharatnatyam, performed a dance ballet based on the life of Jesus Christ. This may



Photo by Badri Varma

seem a daring mix of cultures, art forms and iconographies, but the final result is amazingly harmonious and uplifting. While Hindu mythology conceives of Creation as the *Dance of Shiva*, and thus readily adopts dance to spiritual ends, in the Christian tradition dance has been somewhat controversial, although recent successes like Michael Flatley's *Lord of the Dance* may indicate a growing willingness to explore alternate sensibilities. Particularly impressive were scenes in which the *natya* (dance) and *shilpashastra* (sculpture) forms came together in tableaux and group compositions. What more fitting

tribute to the Tsunami survivors than a celebration in dance of the *Lord of Love and compassion*.

Report by Manjari Chatterji

A Visit to Cuddalore Continued from Page 4

liaison. The survey project stands out as a great symbol of national integration. Amidst ruins, I see hope. We drove back to Chennai, relatively quiet. We were digesting all that we had seen and learned. I had seen devastation, misery, death and destruction. To deny that would be self-deception. Now that tsunami is history, the only sane thing is to look to the future. That future is bright in



Photo by B. S. Sridhar

the hands of the Gagan Singh Bedis, Anu Georges, Drs. Gautamdas, Balasubramanian, Narjeet Kaur and their staff. Future is bright in the hands countless young men and women from TISS and other social work schools as they make their way through the fishing villages and hamlets to ascertain the need and plan future relief operations. It would be a bright future if we can learn from the examples of Kanakavelus and Narayana Murthys who in the face of grave personal loss can rise above narrow personal considerations and think about higher values in life. As dawn surely follows the darkness.

This article was first published in The Post Crescent on Jan. 30, 2005 under the heading 'Fox Valley Resident Affected by Viewing Tsunami Destruction'.

UpComing Events:

**IndUS of Fox Valley and
Time Warner Cable present
NEW STAR: Benefit Concert
February 26, 2005 1:00 PM
Fox Cities Performing Arts
Center**

NEW STAR (Northeast Wisconsin Supports Tsunami Adoption Relief) concert will be a multicultural event including local entertainers, Janet Planet, McDowell, Boogie and the Yo-Yo'z, Appleton Boy Choir and dances from India, Sri Lanka and Indonesia. Major sponsors will receive one benefit/reception ticket for each \$1,000 provided. Tickets for the event range from \$50, \$40, \$30 to \$20, with tickets including the reception priced at \$100. Tickets are available at the PAC box office and through several community representatives, including members of Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce PULSE organization, as well as at Time Warner Cable outlets. We urge you to support this drive.

IndUS of Fox Valley & Green Bay Film Society

Present

CineFest India:

The Best of Contemporary Indian Cinema

At

Valley Value Cinema, Appleton

**All Movies have English subtitles and start at 10:00 AM followed by a
Panel Discussion**

Ticket: \$5 (Each movie) Catered Indian lunch boxes will be available

Saturday, March 12, 2005: *Bawandar (Sand Storm)* Based on a powerful true story of a low-caste rape victim, who raises her voice against child marriage, caste system and becomes a rape activist.

Sunday, March 13, 2005: *Deveeri* The film presents a struggle of a prostitute to save her brother from her shallow world and a brother's conflict of morality with his sister's profession. The resulting separation leaves him in an orphanage longing for his sister's love.

Saturday, March 19, 2005: *Paromitar Ek Din (House of Memories)* A sensitive film about Paromita and her mother-in-law who are brought together by the struggle to raise children with disabilities and are separated by the actions of the man that links them. Learning of her heartbroken mother-in-law's illness, she returns to nurse her on her deathbed.