



# WIC News

## The President's Letter - October, 1998

Dear Members,

The faint stirring of winter's promise is already in the air and those with green fingers, or clever *malis*, are busy planning for the riot of colour in perfumed gardens, which needs hard work this month.

This year, the month of October is especially precious for all those who belong to this land. It commences with the holy festival of Dussehra, celebrated with vigour throughout its length and breadth, in every state, with its own unique flavour. But the message is Universal: the Triumph of Good over Evil.

For the sons of the soil, the first sowings of winter wheat should come forth by Dussehra; a symbol of the resurgence of life. My father would send us these first little sprouts wherever we were, to be tucked behind the ear.....another one of our many traditions!

Dussehra is revered with solemn dignity by those of the Sikh Faith, for the great Guru Gobind Singh baptised his faithful followers on this day.


The somewhat martial aura of Dussehra, with its fanfare, fireworks and parade of arms, is soon followed by the tender, welcoming, festival of Diwali, with its myriad lights, generous feelings, feasting and merriment. Originally, the blasting of mega-sound crackers was never part of Diwali, but I'm afraid that's here to stay.

Constraints of dates on our calendar have compelled us to combine our celebrations with the General Meeting on Wednesday the 14th Oct. But we have for your enjoyment, the famous Jalabala Vaidya, stage personality par excellence, to recite to us, in her own inimitable way, the story of these two great traditions.

May I ask each of you to bring a small token gift on the 14th afternoon, so that we can have an exchange of presents amongst ourselves as part of the Diwali mood.

Before I conclude, let us pause for a moment to think of the lives and homes, lost to the horrific cyclone at Kandla and the recent fearful landslips in Northern U.P. which have caused so much death and devastation.

And so, giving thanks for all that we have been blessed with, may I wish each of you a joyous Dussehra and beautiful Diwali to celebrate with your loved ones and friends. And may this happy spirit follow us through the year.

All good wishes,  
  
President

# General Meeting

14 October 1998, 3.00 P.M.

## FESTIVE STORIES

**A**s we move into the cooler weather that October heralds, we look forward to two major festivals - Dussehra and Diwali. The date of our General Meetings falls between these two festivals, and we have invited Jalabala Vaidya to retell stories from the Ramayana capturing the spirit of the victory of good over evil.

Ms. Jalabala Vaidya is internationally acclaimed for over 2000 performances of the contemporary interpretation of the Ramayana. She has performed on Broadway, on London's West End, at the United Nations HQ, amongst other stages of the world. Our venue is the lovely Pipal Tree Theatre at Akshara, 11-B Baba Kharak Singh Marg, (close to the Gole Daak Khana). Please come dressed in your festive best. Parking space is at a premium. Perhaps you might want to consider car pooling.

### DUSSEHRA

**D**ussehra is the culmination of the 10 day war that Lord Rama waged against King Ravana of Lanka, to regain his kidnapped wife Sita. It is seen as a battle against the forces of evil, and Rama triumphing against seemingly overwhelming odds, with only a force of monkeys and bears whose greatest weapon was belief in their cause.

The nine days prior to Vijay Dashmi (or Dussehra) the tenth day of Victory, are marked by fasting or at least avoiding cereals, many religious reasons are given, to lend sanctity to the cardinal principle of Ayurveda - to rest the digestive system at the change of seasons, and in preparation for the feasting to follow at Diwali.

### From the Editor

**O**ctober is a pleasant month for India. The summer monsoon has washed the dust and dirt off the vegetation; the earth is still damp; not every gust of wind that blows sends up clouds of dust as it does at other times of the year. The air is clean, clear and wholesome.

As India celebrates Dussehra and Diwali, we will usher in the 53rd year of the establishment of the United Nations. In a world of turmoil and violence, the violence not only of guns and terrorism but also the violence of hunger and poverty, the United Nations remains a strong voice for peace and development. Some parts of the world will also be celebrating Halloween.

Beginning this month we will attempt to capture a spirit of concern and care by featuring a Heritage monument of India, we will also fill the newsletter with as much interesting information like the planting guide, paint a new face for our calendar so you will use it really for all the clubs activities, amongst other things.

As such, I hope you enjoy this month's newsletter and the succeeding ones. All contributions are welcomed. Happy Diwali!

### DIWALI

**D**iwali or Deepavali (literary the cluster of lights) is indeed a festival of lights and one of the most joyful and popular festivals of India. The origin of Diwali is linked to several legends. The most well known is that Lord Rama on his return from Lanka and his victory over Ravan, was crowned on this day. Hence it became a day of rejoicing, and synonymous with the triumph of good over evil, light over darkness.

Sweets, gifts, crackers and lights are an integral part of Diwali. In the North, Diwali begins with the worship of the Goddess Lakshmi, the harbinger of progress and plenty; *pathasas* (a white candy) and *phuliyen* (puffed rice) are offered as symbols of goodwill and abundance. In the South, and in the Maharashtra, Diwali day begins with a dawn ceremonial oil bath followed by fun and feasting, the special Diwali delicacies are all prepared at home in Maharashtra and sent to friends and relatives in the same city. Certain merchant communities also renew their account books on this day.



# Circle Programmes



## BOOKS

### Dalrymple in Delhi

**W**illiam Dalrymple, highly acclaimed young Scottish writer, and author of "Delhi-City of Djins" and numerous other best-sellers, will be in Delhi making a film in October. He has kindly offered to talk to the WIC but his subject is not declared!

Knowing Willie, also an accomplished public speaker and television presenter, whatever his subject, the talk will be amusing, provocative and a must for all literary devotees. A lively discussion period is guaranteed.

**Thursday 8th of October at 3.00 p.m.**  
at the home of Annie Howard,  
131 Sunder Nagar  
Limited to 60 persons



## GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE : CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Will Delhiites have to live with summer temperatures of 50 degrees ( instead of 46 degrees this year) ? Will Kerala's coastal areas be totally flooded? Will island countries like Fiji and Tonga disappear from the world map? These are some of the questions that we as inhabitants of planet Earth have to face right now.

Dr. R.K. Pachauri, Director of Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI), New Delhi, a think-tank for policy analysis and critical global issues such as climate change and global warming, is one of the most outstanding international experts in this field. He has been actively engaged in the Rio Summit of 1992 as well as in the follow-up UN climate Conferences, and is principal adviser to the Indian Government on global environmental matters.

Dr. Pachauri will talk to us about Global Climate change: challenges and opportunities.

**Wednesday, 21st October 1998 at 3.00 p.m.**

Conference Room of the TERI, Darbari Seth  
Block, Habitat Place, Lodhi Road  
Conference room capacity : 50 persons

## Recipe for Living

### SURVIVING STRESS

**V**irtually everything in our lives can be stressful. Whether in our homes, at work or at play no one is immune to the vast range of stress related disasters. And because many of us are ill equipped to cope with stress, there is a dramatic increase of stress induced ill health. We invite you to join us in exploring different traditional and holistic systems of achieving a harmonious balance of physical and mental well being, as the common adage goes, health is wealth.

Prama Bhandari, President of the Howard Club of India, Reiki teacher and practitioner and involved in exploring complimentary systems of healing, will give us a lecture-demonstration on Holographic Repatterning, a system which combines ancient healing traditions and modern research. It enables us to become aware of the unconscious mental attitudes and behaviour patterns that limit our potential and provides techniques for releasing mental, emotional and physical blocks that prevent us from attaining the goal we want most in life. There will also be a short video film showing Chloe Faith Wordsworth (the specialist who developed Holographic Repatterning) working with a client.

**Wednesday 7th of October 1998 at 10.30 a.m.**  
at the home of Etelka Dallos, Hungarian  
Embassy, 2/50-M, Niti Marg, Chanakyapuri



## CULTURE/ PERFORMING ARTS

### SPECIAL PROGRAM

**A** special viewing of the exhibition of Indian Art Treasures through the ages belonging to the Museum of Indian Art in Berlin which is being held at the National Museum, on **September 30, Wednesday at 3.00 p.m.** We will be taken around the exhibition by one of the persons who have put it together.

**Meet at the lobby of the National Museum  
at 3.00 p.m.**

# Circle Programmes

## .....CULTURE/PERFORMING ARTS

We are going to be treated to an EVENING of Greek singing. LAKIS HALKIAS and his ensemble will be performing popular, traditional and contemporary Greek music. They will be tracing the different stages of singing expressions in Greece through the ages. Venue will either be the Habitat Centre or Kamani Auditorium. This will be reconfirmed later, including the time. The President will announce other details..... As of Press time, the Greek Embassy is still finalizing arrangements.

**Saturday 3rd October, 1998.**

Meet in the lobby 15 mts. before programme  
Limited to 30 persons



## INTERNATIONAL CUISINE AND GARDENS

**O**ctober is a month of brisk activity for gardeners, it is a time to plant not only our spring and winter flowers but also vegetables. Come join us on a visit to one of the biggest and most modern seed multiplication companies of India - the PRO AGRO PGS India Ltd., the management has graciously offered to allow us green thumbs and hopeful green thumbs to see their innovations on seed multiplication.

We will meet at the India International Centre on **Thursday 29th of October 1998 at 10.00 a.m.** and a Company vehicle will take us to their nurseries at Dhumaspur Road, Badshapur, Gurgaon, Haryana. Limited to 30 persons. Please bring your Lunch.



CELEBRATING  
**28th**  
YEAR

## Excursion

### HUMAYUN'S TOMB

**T**he tomb of Emperor Humayun, an enormous and impressive monument to the devotion of his widow, Hamida Begum, marks the beginning of a major development in the history of Indo-Islamic architecture. In spirit and substance, Humayun's Tomb is a marvel of Persian architecture.

Martin Howard will enlighten us on this astounding garden-tomb and will tell us about the exciting thing that the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) and the Indo-British Trust for India's 50th Year of Independence are doing - i.e. their recent endeavours and plans for the future.

Meet at the entrance at 9.55 a.m. sharp  
on Friday 30th October, 1998.



### HERITAGE

**T**he St. James' Church is a fine example of the colonial classical architecture of the early part of the 19th century. The building is a subtle synthesis of "classical" and "late Mughal" styles, and was built by James Skinner, an important and colourful personage of 19th century Delhi. The building of the church was commenced in the year 1823 at a cost of 10,000 pounds and was consecrated by Bishop Daniel Wilson in 1836. St. James is a centrally planned church, based on a Greek Cross Plan. The church consisted of an altar at the east end with porticoes on the three other sides. Since its consecration the life of the church has been linked closely with the fate of Delhi. The eminent British Conservationist, Sir Bernard Fielden visited the church in January 1989 and stressed the importance of conservation of the church.



## NOTICE BOARD

CELEBRATING  
**28th**  
YEAR

1. The Executive Committee accepts with regret the resignation of **Jacqueline Dalbousiere**, secretary, as her husband has suddenly transferred to Singapore. We are most grateful to **Zubaidah Kamilan** for gallantly filling the breach, at this eleventh hour.

**Zubaidah Kamilan - A5/5A, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi • Tel : 615-1786**

2. In order to save all around inconvenience reply cards will now be pre-stamped, **please bring Rs. 24 each** to the General Meeting on 14th of October, to cover stamped reply cards from Oct.-May '99, Thank you, please pay to Newsletter Editor **Priscila Confiado**.
3. Please note : **Hospitality, Shireen Khemchand**, requests you to please restrict your calls between 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Monday to Friday. She is professionally involved and **WILL NOT BE ABLE** to take your calls outside of these timings.
4. All dues should be paid at the latest October 15 to our treasurer, **Sohinder Nabha**.
5. Regrets for Gen. Meetings should be sent in writing to Membership, Sharon Graefe.
6. Notices of Resignation should be submitted in writing to Membership, Sharon Graefe.
7. No reply cards will be accepted at any club meeting, whether General. Meetings or Circle Meetings.
8. During "limited" Circle Programmes please extend utmost courtesy to the hostess, hospitality and circle leaders. If you can't make it due to unavoidable circumstances make sure to inform the hospitality (one week in advance) or the hostess thereafter. This is the only way other members can take your place to enjoy the programme.
9. Contributions and suggestions to the Newsletter should be submitted in writing to Newsletter Editor, Priscila R. Confiado, Tel. Fax : 651-9020.
10. We say goodbye to the following :
  - a) Jennifer Teng
  - b) Francoise Benedetti
  - c) Dina Eshet
  - d) Pam Morris
  - e) Surinder Dugal Jain
11. We welcome the following New members
  - a) Kiran Anand
  - b) Ursula Gomes
  - c) Geraldine Hoekstra

### Congratulations



We are delighted to learn of the addition to **Nayana Goradia's** family and extend our affectionate felicitations to Grandparents **Nayana and Prafull**.



## THE UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations (UN) arose from the rubbles of the Second World War (WWII) and was established on October 24, 1945 by the nations that opposed Germany, Italy and Japan. It has two main goals of peace and human dignity. The role of the UN has evolved since then and today it fights not only the violence of guns and terrorism but also the violence of poverty and hunger. It has been in the forefront of pushing for change in the world, fighting for the cause of women, care for the environment and many others.

As it celebrates its 53rd year we would like the reprint the beautiful words captured in its Preamble, hopefully to inspire and lift our spirits as we look forward to the new millenium.

### THE PREAMBLE TO THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**We the peoples of the United Nations determined**

**to save** succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and

**to reaffirm** faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small,

**to establish** conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and

**to promote** social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.

**and for these ends**

**to practise** tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, and

**to unite** our strength to maintain international peace and security, and

**to ensure**, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and

**to employ** international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

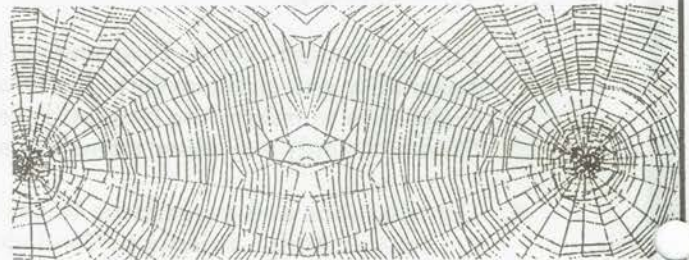
**have resolved to combine our efforts to accomplish these aims.**



## HALLOWEEN

**T**he Celtic festival of Samhain is probably the source of the present day Halloween celebration. The Celts lived more than 2,000 years ago in what is now Great Britain, Ireland and Northern France. Their New Year began on November 1. The festivals begin the night of October 31 to honor Samhain, the Celtic lord of death. The Druids (priests and fathers of the Celts) built huge New Year's bonfire of oak branches and asked all the people to light their hearth fire from the New Year's bonfire. Sacrifices were made in order to ask the Gods for good fortune in the coming year.

Today people celebrate Halloween with trick or treat and lighting jack o' lanterns to ward off evil spirits. Jack o' lanterns are carved out from huge pumpkins and hallowed inside. Candles are lit inside the pumpkin and these are placed in their front door.



## Condolences

We share in the sorrow of Renu Mehra and Noni Singh, both of whom lost beloved Mothers this summer. Renu and Noni as daughters, we all understand the finality of this loss. Please accept our heartfelt sympathy and friendship.

We condole with Etelka Dallos on the tragic loss of her Mother-in-Law during the holidays, and offer Ambassador Andras Dallos and Etelka our deep sympathy and affection.

# October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>SPECIAL PROGRAMMES</b> <b>INDIAN ART TREASURES</b> September 30th 3.00 p.m. Lobby, National Museum					
	<b>DINE OUT &amp; LOOSE WEIGHT</b> with Michael Montignac International Cuisine Noni Singh, September 21 at 3.00 pm					
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
			Recipe "Surviving Stress" 10:30 a.m Eteika Dallos Hungarian Emb.	BOOKS "Dalrymple in Delhi" 3:00 p.m. Annie Howard	Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			General Meeting "Festive Stories" Jalabala Vaidya Pipal Tree Theatre Akshara 3.00 pm			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Diwali		Focus "Global CLimate Change" 3:00 P.M. Teri, Habitat Place			United Nation's Day
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
				Gardens - Visit "Pro-Agro" 10:00 a.m. meet at IIC	Excursion "Humayun's Tomb" 9:55 A.M.	Halloween