



CHAAT MASALA

CityMasala readers - thank you for your continued response to the Chaat Masala column. The *chehal pehal* and the *masala* continues to pour in and we have made space for as much as information as we could.

Remember, if you have an interesting tidbit to pass on to us, don't forget to write in to info@citymasala.com. Pictures make it more interesting, so do remember to send us some.

Neha & Shikha Uberoi - The Tennis Duo...

Remember the vibrant and talented Uberoi sisters who graced our cover in October of 2007? We received an email from Shikha saying,

"Hope you are well. I wanted to ask you a favor. Neha and I have had a website for quite some time now and have recently added great new items, such as youtube clips, blogs, a fan facebook and orkut. Could you please help me out and

place it in your publication? The website is www.uberoisisters.com. It's fun and very interactive. If you could announce it, it would help us out tremendously as the more hits we get the more coverage we will gain, plus the great bonuses that follow."

So, CityMasala readers, do us proud and do check out the Uberoi sisters' website to encourage them and provide the boost that they need from our rock solid community here!



FIA to hold India Independence Day Event...

TAMPA, FLORIDA: The Federation of Indian Associations of Tampa Bay (made up of 36 different organizations) will be celebrating India's 61st Independence Day on Saturday, August 16 at the Indian Cultural Center in Tampa.

"We are expecting more than 1,000 people to attend the festivities, which will begin with flag hoisting at 5 p.m.," said Dr. Ram Ramcharran, event chairperson.

Indian Americans of different persuasions and walks of life will begin with a 'High Tea' (4.30-5.00 pm) and a parade with drums at the reception, the Indian tricolor and the American flag will be hoisted followed by renderings of the national anthems of both the adopted and the mother land. *"A lot of singing and dancing and no long speeches will be a major part of the celebrations along with different regional exhibits, vendors and*



food. The FIA Independence Day Event presents itself as one of the biggest parties in town and one of the most significant annual events for all the Indian Americans", says Dr. Krishna Batra.

Special features of this year's event, according to the Event Chair Dr. Ram Ramcharran, will be the Youth Participation in a debate along with heart-warming narrations of personal stories relevant to the theme of the Independence struggle from families present at the event, award distributions to the brightest and best citizens and those of the younger

generation.

"The theme this year is 'Come Celebrate our Culture," said Dr. Ramcharran. *"For the first time, we will be discussing the history of India, showing a movie on independence and successes of what India has accomplished since its freedom. We will have family members share personal stories of parents or grandparents who participated in the independence process."*

Invited guests include Dr. Souku Rao, the incoming president of Association of American Physicians from India (AAPI) and Congresswomen Kathy Castor.

The 4:30 to 9:30 p.m. event will be held at the Indian Cultural Center, 5511 Lynn Road, Tampa. For more information, call Dr. Ram Ramcharran at (727) 460-2460 or FIA President Krishan K. Batra at (813) 963-9857.

IndoUS 7th Annual Golf Invitational...



It's that time of the year again! **IndoUS is hosting its 7th Annual Golf tournament** at The Eagles in Odessa, FL on August 1, 2008. You don't need to be a pro to play as the format remains a four player scramble with trophies going out to 1st and 2nd place teams within each handicap. Longest drive, closest to the pin, and other competitions will also be recognized. The cost is \$100, and includes your

greens fees, cart, box lunch, dinner, photo, on course beverages, range balls, and more. You are advised to register your team as soon as possible as there are only limited spots which are filling up very quickly.

Registration forms can be downloaded from the website www.indo-us.org/pdf/GOLFFLYER_2008.pdf. You can also contact Francis Vayalumkal at francis.vayalumkal@gmail.com or 813-719-0303. If you don't have a team, we will assign you to one. More information and sponsorship opportunities are available at www.indo-us.org.

Sunil Thakkar debuts on Star One...

Sunil Thakkar of Houston, TX debuts on Star One's, "The Great Indian Laughter Challenge"

Sunil Thakkar is the first NRI contestant featured in this show which is back with a smashing new season that began on June 06 2008.

"While I thought my American-style comedy would not be appreciated by the masses in India, the directors of Star One's Great Indian Laughter Challenge thought quite the opposite," says Thakkar who is still in Mumbai shooting the top 13 Finals. *"The direction team really sees me as a unique contest-*

ant - the only NRI and Gujarati contender - they have my hopes up that I'll be around for at least a few more of the finals' episodes."

Thakkar is familiar to NRIs as the face of Masala Cruises, appearing as different characters on Indian Satellite Channel commercials year-round. Stay tuned to Star ONE for this show where Thakkar will share the stage with celebrity hosts Vidya Balan, Malika Sherawat & Akshay Kumar.



To get your upcoming event or masaledaar khabar listed on this page, write to info@citymasala.com by the 20th of the previous month. You can also call 813-642-3313.