USA T.I.S.I Sangam - Newsletter Vol. 1

Holiday Greetings

Please check out our website to know more.

Visit our Website

Namaskaram to all our Sangam family and friends!!!

Welcome to the First Volume of the USA TISI Newsletter, which includes News and Information on upcoming district activities.

Thank you, Mr. Kamal Gounder and your social media team members!

I hope you all enjoy reading about Sangam's achievements and the proposed ideas for a sustainable organization and its future.

This year we had a very successful Sangam Convention at Riverside in California during the Memorial Day Weekend.

Thank you to the host President, Mr. Ram Raju, and the members of Riverside Sangam. A special appreciation to all the District Presidents, members, families, and friends for attending the 2023 Convention.

A Big Thank you to all the participants, and Congratulations to the winning teams!!! Another hearty appreciation to our National Mathaar Sangam President and her Board of Directors for Organizing the Cultural and the Kids' Activities. I would also like to thank all District TIMS Presidents and members for their participation and contributions to a successful conventional.

2023-24 NATIONAL BOARD ACTIVITIES:

The First National Board meeting was convened in July 2023 and hosted by Sacramento Sangam. Two Conference Calls were held during the past seven months. These virtual meetings were basically to discuss and plan for next year's Annual Convention, Appointment of Sub Committees, fundraise to help districts, Scholarship programs, social media, and building projects. At this meeting, it was also decided that our building project would be put on hold until the next AGM, which would then decide its future for the project and the current funds in that account. The next USA Annual Sangam Convention is now finalized to be hosted by the Hayward TISI Sangam in California. Thank you, Mr. Arvind Raman, for becoming chair of the following convention committee.

I take this opportunity to thank all my executives and district Presidents for carrying out their duties in their respective districts and moving forward with confidence in the interests of Sangam activities.

Season's Greetings to Everyone! Hope you have a joyful holiday with your Loved ones. I hope your season is filled with warmth and peace. Enjoy the holidays!

Bal Ram

National President – USA TISI SANGAM

2024 USA Sangam Convention

On behalf of Sangam of East Bay, please accept our invitation to the 29th USA Sangam Convention to be held in Hayward during the 2024 Memorial Day weekend.

The convention program will be the same as in the prior year, with a golf tournament held on Friday. We plan to add more kids' activities and soccer for our veteran players this year. A few other events would be added if a correct venue is found. We will be sending the venue and program once they are finalized. Please let me know if you have any suggestions that would make this upcoming convention more memorable.

Mr. Arvind Raman
Organizing Chairman - 2024 USA Sangam Convention

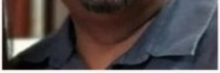
Above: 2023 Sangam Convention opening ceremony photos.

USA Sangam District Updates

Seattle Sangam

It is with profound pleasure that we contribute this message to National Sangam's first newsletter.

Diwali night was a grand opportunity to share our culture and Hindu history with friends and families at the Hanuman Nagri temple in Seattle. Our children participated in Bharatnatyam. They also participated in a cultural character parade based on



Ramayana. Members performed Kirtans and Bhajans at the temple. It was a joint project with the Hanuman Nagri Temple committee.

A nine-day Ram Naumi celebration in March, our Sangam appreciation night in July, an eight-day Krishn Janamasti in September, Durgastmi and Perrutassi pooja in October 2023 kept our members engaged in cultural activities.

We wish you all a delightful and Merry Christmas holiday and hope to start the coming year with preparations to participate in all areas of our upcoming National Convention.

Karun Pillay

President - Seattle Sangam

Riverside Sangam

Riverside Sangam hosted the 2023 USA TISI Sangam convention in Riverside. It was a two-day convention starting with the AGM, followed by a grand opening ceremony and some soccer matches on day 1.

The opening ceremony was held with South Indian traditional Senai baja and display followed by Chief Guests, USA TISI – TIV – TIM Sangam board members.

Sewak Ratnam Sadhu Kuppuswamy, the founder and lifelong President of Sangam's portrait, was carried by Riverside members, followed by South Indian Raja and Rani costumed dancers, which was the highlight of the opening ceremony.

Official pooja was very well conducted by Pujari Gyaneshwaran Pillai from Seattle Sangam. Bharatnatyam traditional dance was performed by Komal Gounder – Seattle. The Chief Guest for the 2023 TISI Sangam convention was the Honorary Consulate of Fiji in Los Angeles, CA, Mr. Vinod Karsanj Bhindi.

The Arts and Crafts event was held on the grounds, which was organized and managed by TIMs.

The Cultural Nite program was held @ Bob Glass Hall and was filled with South Indian cultural and traditional dances and songs by representative districts.

Day 2 started with sports; soccer, volleyball, netball, and kid's games ... all sports were managed by the Sports chairman and the committees ... very well coordinated and all games finishing on time.

The Presentation/Award night was held at Vive Banquet Hall with trophy presentation, followed by dinner and social night.

My special and sincere thanks to the Riverside Sangam organizing committee for a successful convention after the lapse of 3 years due to the pandemic restrictions.

Events that Happened after the Convention:

- Colorado River two-day event ... sports, swimming, BBQ in Jul 2023.
- Mexico Cruise trip to celebrate our Patron's 70th birthday, Jun 2023.
- Dinner Dance fund raiser event in Aug 2023.
- Purattasi pooja at members residence Sept 17th – Oct 17th, 2023.
- Sonam Bali Kirtan samellan fundraising event – Oct 28th, 2023.
- Diwali celebrations – members get together.

Future Events:

- Dec 30th, 2023 – Fundraising event to support Children's Heart Hospital in Fiji - Rovin Swamy coordinating.
- Jan 7th, 2024 - Council meeting for upcoming events and AGM.
- Feb 10th, 2024 – AGM / Appreciation Nite for members.
- March 15th – Sumeet Tappoo Live Fund-raising concert in LA to support Children's Hospital in Fiji – Rovin Swamy coordinating.
- March 23rd – Major fundraising for 2024 USA TISI Sangam convention in Hayward ... Grand Terekuttu event in Perris, CA.

Wishing you all a Happy Holiday season.

God Bless you and your families, "USA SANGAM".

Ram Raju

President - Riverside Sangam

2023 Diwali Highlights

Diwali celebration by East Bay Sangam at Shalen Raman's residence. Diwali pooja and haven by Pandit Vimlesh. The members provided dinner. DJ by VJ Raman

Diwali Celebration by Seattle Sangam at Hanuman Nagri Temple.

USA SANGAM FIRST BOARD MEETING HOSTED BY SACRAMENTO SANGAM – JULY 29,2023

NATIONAL MATHAAR SANGAM BOARD MEMBERS

First Board Meeting hosted by Sacramento Sangam

Maathaar Sangam Holiday Messages..

Greetings from USA National Maathar Sangam,

On behalf of **THEN INDIA MAATHAR SANGAM**, I would like to thank our TISI SANGAM NATIONAL President and his board members for their support and working closely with our TIMS board. Our TIMS board has done one conference call and group chats on religious events. I would like to thank all our TIMS board for their support and help. Christmas is right around the corner, and I wish all board members and our Sangam family a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Thank you. May God bless our Sangam. Vanakkam.

Ganga Goundar

NP TIMS USA SANGAM

Greetings from Seattle Maathar Sangam,

***Happy 10th Anniversary** to Seattle Mathaar Sangam. I would like to thank the founding members, past President, members, players, and families for their help and support to Seattle Mathaar Sangam. The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined efforts of every individual. Once again, thank you all!!!*

I wish everyone a happy and Merry Christmas filled with Love & pleasant memories.

Anita Devi

President - Seattle TIMS

Greetings from Sacramento Maathar Sangam,

C
WA
WD
GD
GA
GK

The end of the year brings no greater joy than the opportunity to express to you the season's greetings and good wishes. May your holidays and New Year be filled with joy.

I am very proud of our Maathar Sangam for helping Sacramento Sangam win this year's overall Sangam Convention trophy!

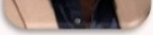
Mohini Nand

Sacramento TIMS

National Executives - Holiday Messages ..

Namaskaram!

This year, we are very happy to share that our USA Sangam Board activities have fully resumed after a long pause due to COVID-19. In May, we had a very successful USA Sangam Convention hosted by Riverside Sangam. We also held our 2023 Annual



General Meeting (AGM), where new National Board members were elected.

I am looking forward to working with our National President Mr. Bal Ram and our new Executive Board members. Sangam members have been assigned to each of our committees which are led by a chairperson. Each committee has a role to play and report back to the National Board on its status. We plan to keep and continue to follow our Sangam Vision, Mission, and Values here in the USA. We recognize and value every Sangam member including their valuable contributions to the development of our organization.

Holiday greetings and a very happy New Year!

Thank you!

Praveen Nand

National Executive Secretary -USA Sangam

Namaskaram Members, families, friends, and well-wishers. Thank you for a wonderful start to our 2023-24 Sangam year! In command of NP Bal Ram. To all the Past executives and mentors, thank you for continuing to bring up our Sangam so far. In USA Sangam, we have opened new horizons every year, and this year, we can say, "Each Member: a voice, a Dream, and a Bright future for the family- particularly our children.

We are committed to continuous learning and improvement at all levels of our districts, and this has been evident as we kicked off another new year. I have noticed a dedication to discovering new things, ideas, and ways to grow.

Some districts were facing difficulties over the past few months recruiting and maintaining a steady membership, and that roller-coaster approach is very normal – encouragement and enthusiasm is the key the district leaders are back into normal routines, and we can now hear the sounds of specific improvements and this newsletter with its Chair Master Kamal and his team is an example of one of those. Arvind Raman, taking a quick response to our request to help with our 2024 USA Sangam convention, considering the hard times faced by Stockton, is another critical example of the brotherhood of mankind.

Check out these photos and the stories in this newsletter, first of its kind, and learn more about what is happening in the districts and how we can keep up with those trends. Large projects take too long to complete, while smaller ones are quick and easy, with thrilling results and encouragement to start yet another one. There may be several ways to achieve the common results we anticipate through our Purposes of this Sangam Fraternity – Social, Educational, sports, and spiritual involvement for us and our children. We believe our members have limitless potential. I encourage you all to have more pictures of your district activities and messages for others in our next edition of this newsletter.

With the holidays approaching and a new year approaching, it's my pleasure to say Thank You all for your continued support, and I wish you all a very joyous holiday! May you and your family be Blessed always!

Gyan Pillai

TRUSTEE & PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT – USA SANGAM

Namaskaram to All,

I hope you all are doing fine and busy preparing for the year-end holidays.

Thanks to our National President, Mr. Bal Ram, for inviting me to contribute a few words for the USA Sangam Newsletter.

It has been a while since we communicated regarding USA Sangam. After a lapse of more than two years due to COVID-19, we eventually met in Riverside, and it was a wonderful experience meeting as many of you as possible and refreshing our family and friendship ties.

We need to appreciate that this was only possible due to Sangam. We sincerely thank all USA Sangam executives, especially the Riverside Sangam Board and members who hosted this memorable event under challenging circumstances. Kudos to all of you.

Focusing back on the activities of USA Sangam, my concern is the decline we have noted in the performance at the branch level in most districts. COVID should not be an excuse for this alone, as we all should genuinely re-examine our commitments to the Sangam community. We have a new set of Board members at the national level under the leadership of Bal Ram, who have shown enthusiasm to take our organization to the next level. They need our sincere support and commitment at all levels. Let us avoid blaming anyone or any group for our failures since we all need each other to revive ourselves. My plea is to get on board and recommit yourselves to the Sangam community. Let us develop that sense of belonging, as without a community, our journey in life would be like a boat without a captain.

I know you all have a lot of great ideas to contribute regarding the revival process. My suggestion is, first of all, to get together with our branch executives and share our thoughts. They will bring your thoughts to the attention of the national Board. Maybe the national board needs to travel to the districts that need help and meet their members or organize conference calls for these districts to discuss problems they are facing and ways to help out.

To all our Branch executives, thank you for your commitment to Sangam. Please do your best to increase your membership; that is where your strength lies. Please focus on youth groups and families.

Good luck and happy holidays.

Master Rajendra Kumar
TRUSTEE & PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT – USA SANGAM

District - Holiday Messages ..

Greetings from Hayward Sangam,

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

WE WISH YOU PEACE AND PROSPERITY THIS CHRISTMAS
AND THROUGHOUT THE COMING YEAR.

Hayward Sangam

2023- Other National Highlights

USA SANGAM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023 HELD AT RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA, USA

Congratulations to **Sacramento Sangam** for Winning the USA Sangam Overall Trophy.

USA Sangam Scholarship 2024

The 2024 USA Sangam Scholarship application is scheduled to open in January 2024. Please contact your district president or visit the USA Sangam website for more information.