

Melookaran on Intl Relations Council

■ **KANSAS CITY:** Joseph Melookaran, a first generation Indian-American, has been elected to the prestigious International Relations Council. A businessman active in civic leadership and business community initiatives in the Greater Kansa City area, Melookaran takes over from Keith Alm, former CEO of Hallmark Cards. Melookaran will be the first immigrant president to lead this organization. Its Board of Directors includes many well-known businessmen, civic leaders and academicians.

"This is a great accomplishment for the Indian American community since it is the first time an immigrant is elected to lead such a large mainstream organization," said Melookaran. "I am excited about the opportunities that open up for me to help enhance the awareness on global issues in the community," he said in a statement.

OFBJP-USA celebrates NDA's Bihar victory

■ **WASHINGTON D.C.:** Indians in the Washington D.C. area celebrated the NDA's victory in the recent elections in Bihar. Overseas Friends of BJP (OFBJP-USA) organized a

grand event at Ashwin Arora's house. The meeting started with singing *Vande Mataram* followed by welcome speech by Prof. Venkat Rao Mulpuri, Secretary OFBJP. Dr Adapa Prasad, OFBJP vice president congratulated Nitish Kumar, newly elected Chief Minister of Bihar.

Vedanta Foundation completes a year in US

■ **NEW YORK, NY:** The Vedanta Cultural Foundation just recently completed one year in the US. The foundation was formed to make the knowledge of Vedanta available to people here.

In addition to seven regular weekly lectures throughout New York and New Jersey, Gautam Jain, leader of the foundation in US, also traveled extensively in the US and Canada. He addressed conferences such as Association of Physicians of Indian Origin and NETIP (Network of Indian Professionals) and spoke at Columbia University and Princeton.

Swami Parthasarathy's also spoke at the Kellogg School of Management, The Asia Society and delivered a keynote speech at the TIE (The Indus Entrepreneurs) Tri-State Conference.

Telugu associations donate money for Katrina victims



(L to r) Ram Yalamanchili, Prabhakar Choudary Kakarala, Bobby Jindal and Prasad Thotakura

■ **DALLAS, TEXAS:** The Telugu Association of North America (TANA) received \$18,000 donations from its general membership to help out Hurricane Katrina victims. Also, the Telugu Association of North Texas (TANTEX) of Dallas raised \$7,000 through a dance program by Mouna and Dhanya Yalamanchi youth members of TANTEX. Members of the organizations met Congressman Bobby Jindal on December 23rd in Baton Rouge, Louisiana to present the \$25,000 checks to

help out the victims of the deadly hurricane. Jindal thanked the organizations.

RTI International names Jayanty senior fellow

■ **RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC:** Radhakrishna Murty "R.K.M." Jayanty, senior program director for the Environmental and Industrial Sciences division at RTI International has been named a senior fellow. Jayanty, recognized as one of the leading scientists in the field of environmental analytical chemistry, has worked for almost 40 years. For the past six years, Jayanty has managed RTI's program to analyze a nationwide network of air pollution samples for the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Malgudi Days released

■ **EDISON, NJ:** Famous novelist and humanist R.K. Narayan's masterpiece *Malgudi Days* is now on DVD. The bittersweet stories of Malgudi were translated into a TV series by Shankar Nag. One of few English serials, *Malgudi* defined a generation of Indians. The two disc collectors set features the first season consisting of 13 episodes. The 1986 broadcast was acclaimed as true to R. K. Narayan's stories.

