

# INSAF Newsletter

November 2006  
Volume 31 Issue 2

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## INSAF LIKELY ON ITS WAY TO A RECORD YEAR

Year 2006 could prove to be another notable milestone for INSAF member supported projects — if the trend, as of this writing, continues for the rest of this year.

Major projects being initiated or sponsored by several families deserve special credit for this trend:

- ♦ Veteran members **Joginder & Meera Kundra** (New Jersey) have raised a substantial level of funding to support an array of projects of their choice.
- ♦ The generous family of **Dr. Ashok and Dr. Hema Varma** (Ohio) have elected to provide significant support to six different causes this year.
- ♦ The inspiring project in Kerala initiated by **Vasu and Lalitha Vasudevan** is getting a significant move forward this year.
- ♦ The ever exemplary efforts of **Dr. Ram Chaudhari** who has been covering a major part of significant expenses at an education society in Uttar Pradesh (The Bhulpur Shiksha Samiti).
- ♦ A special project by **Perviz Walji** and her sisters in memory of their respected parents, the late Hasham and the late Daulatkhanu Adam Walji, will provide access to education to children in the Kutchh area of Gujarat.
- ♦ Founder members **Ashok and Darshan Mehan** are supporting a number of projects this year.
- ♦ Former INSAF President **Sudershan Bhateja** and long-time member **Ravi Manrao** have joined together to support a substantial upgrade to the quality of education at the Government High School, Banbhauri, Punjab.
- ♦ **Eight INSAF families** are joining together to support the construction of two class rooms as well as to fund educational activities at the village of Ramalingapuram in Andhra Pradesh. This includes the **Kundras** and the **Mehans** mentioned above, along with the Palo Alto Group: **AJ & Thankamma Poulouse, Gopal & Shibani Chotani, Jairam & Shashikala Shetty, Manoj & Maneesha Shrivastav, Pushkraj & Padmashri Lad, and Bhavender & Kathryn Sharma.**

Of course this doesn't cover all the efforts in 2006 — there are other efforts as well. We will have to wait until the Spring 2007 Newsletter to see the full Project Honor Roll for the entire year.

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## BATLAHALLY JUNIOR COLLEGE

INSAF President Soma and Parvathi Murthy have been long-time supporters of the former Batlahally School, now a Junior College. This year, the Murthys and INSAF have sent a combined contribution of \$225 to the college.

## MUNGANAHALLI SCHOOL

Here we have an illustration of “2 => 6”. How’s that you ask? INSAF President Soma and Parvathy Murthy converted their \$200 into \$600 for the Munganhalli school, which is located near Bengaluru, Karnataka. First, they added \$100 through the INSAF partial matching program to make it \$300. Then, they added \$300 through IDRf’s (India Development & Relief Fund) matching program. Thus, the school received \$600 in the end. Well done, Soma.

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## RISHIKESH SCHOOL PROJECT

In collaboration with All India Movement for Seva (AIM for Seva), Ashok & Darshan Mehan have sponsored the construction of a classroom at a new school being built in Rishikesh, Uttaranchal by AIM for Seva.

A contribution of \$2,400 has been sent this year to support this effort.

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## India Improves on Corruption Perception Index

Transparency International has ranked India at number 70, up from the 88th spot last year, in its 2006 Corruption Perception Index for 163 countries. Other ranks:

1. Finland, Iceland, New Zealand
4. Denmark
5. Singapore
6. Sweden
7. Norway
- .....
11. Austria, Luxemburg, United Kingdom
14. Canada
20. Belgium, Chile, USA
- .....
70. India, China, Mexico, Brazil, Egypt and 4 others
84. Sri Lanka, and 5 others
- .....
121. Nepal, Russia, and 7 others
- .....
142. Pakistan, Kenya, Nigeria, and 5 others
- .....
156. Sudan, Chad, Congo, Bangladesh
160. Iraq, Myanmar (formerly called Burma)
163. Haiti

## ARYA PRITINIDHI SABHA, PONDICHERRI & GUJARAT

The Arya Pritinidhi Sabha America has an ambitious project on the anvil for Pondicherry. They are planning to construct facilities for displaced children at an estimated cost of \$500,000. Joginder & Meera Kundra were so impressed with this project that they have committed to providing \$51,000 during 2006-2007.

As of this Newsletter, the Kundras have sent \$25,000 to help support this effort. More on this project in a future Newsletter as further information becomes available.

The Arya Pritinidhi Sabha also runs an educational institution for poor children in Gujarat. Earlier this year, the Kundras sent a contribution of \$1,600 to support the education of 10 children there.

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## PREM SABHA HIGH SCHOOL, SANGRUR, PUNJAB

Former INSAF President Vinod Bansal has been a long time supporter of the Prem Sabha High School where he once was a student.

In 2006, Vinod and Sunita Bansal have sent a contribution of \$110 to help support the school.

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## EDITOR'S CORNER

Vigilant readers of the INSAF Newsletter will notice that this Page 2 of the Newsletter used to have a list of INSAF projects. Thanks to some helpful feedback, the list is now on Page 8 which heretofore had been the blank reverse side to the Membership Dues Sheet. Why didn't we think of this sooner? Better late than never.

To my delight, former President Ramesh Paliwal has volunteered to take over the INSAF web site from me. He and our “nextgen” Jaya Paliwal are evaluating ways to spiffy-up the website and bring it into the modern times.

January brings the need to elect our next Exec team. The next Exec term runs 1 Feb 2007 – 31 Jan 2009. Each of the current Exec members has been requested to continue for one more term but while they are thinking about it — please let me know by Dec 31 if you would be willing to serve.

Last but not least, please may I request all Project Leaders to do due diligence after the funds are sent. We need to make sure we have documentation on how the funds were used. Please be alerted that an INSAF volunteer may be contacting you over the next several months in order to obtain such documentation.

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## CHILD SPONSORSHIP UPDATE

The Year 2006 will see further progress in implementation of this concept. By the end of this year, at least 4 additional young people will see sponsorships. But first, here is a report on the previously sponsored children by the various INSAF families (all are from disadvantaged families and our goal is to help them become educated and financially secure adults). Manju & the Late Bindi Chexal were the first sponsors during '99-'03 leading to two success stories — **Mohit Gupta & Ram Parvesh** of Panchkula, Haryana, who have “graduated” out of our program and gone on to be a computer engineer and a chef, respectively.

1. **Sonal Kothawale, 20**, Pune, Maharashtra. Aruna Marathé sponsorship since '01. Working now as a data entry operator and privately studying towards a Commerce degree. Passed 1st Yr with 54% marks.
2. **Amalapushpam, 16**, Paduapuram, Kerala. Bhav & Kaye Sharma sponsorship since '01. Amala is a 10th grade student, lives at a children's home run by the Sisters of Nazareth, and is said to be a good dancer and a singer.
3. **Amandeep, 13**, Panchkula, Haryana. Ashok & Usha Sachdev sponsorship since '02. Amandeep is graduating out of our system due to his family's improved economic situation.
4. **Shailesh Shinde, 14**, Pune, Maharashtra. Raj & Padmashri Lad and Bhav & Kaye Sharma sponsorship since '02. Shailesh is a good student in the 9th grade, and likes to play cricket.
5. **Rutuja Khade, 13**, Pune, Maharashtra. Aruna Marathé sponsorship since '03. Rutuja is a bright student, now in the 8th grade.
6. **Arti Waikar, 12**, Pune, Maharashtra. Raj & Padmashri Lad and Bhav & Kaye Sharma sponsorship since '02. Arti is a 7th grade student in the Marathi medium school Sevasadan.
7. **Raisa Khurshid, 12**, Pune, Maharashtra. Raj & Padmashri Lad and Bhav & Kaye Sharma sponsorship in '04. Raisa is an 8th grade student and well liked by her teachers.
8. **Bhavna Sharma, 3**, Rajpura, Punjab. Kumar & Sudesh Kapur and Bhav & Kaye Sharma sponsorship since '05 at an SOS Children's Village, started to attend pre-school.
9. **Shalini Kumari, 4**, Rajpura, Punjab. Ashok & Darshan Mehan and Bhav & Kaye Sharma sponsorship in '05 at an SOS Children's Village, now an LKG student in the kindergarten.

In addition to the 11 youth mentioned, we are pleased to report that the following sponsorships have begun or a commitment has been made to begin:

1. **Akanksha Singh, 2**, Rajpura, Punjab  
Joginder & Meera Kundra sponsorship at the SOS Children's Village.
2. **Dyaneshwar Shinde, 17**, Pune, Maharashtra  
Joginder & Meera Kundra sponsorship — Dyaneshwar is a bright 12th grade student, and is Shailesh Shinde's elder brother.
3. **Sinto Raphael, 11**, Karukutty, Kerala  
Joginder & Meera Kundra sponsorship.  
Sinto (right) is a 6th grader.



4. **Pooja, 13**, Panchkula, Haryana  
Joginder & Meera Kundra sponsorship.  
Pooja (right) is an 8th grade student.



5. **Anju, 11**, Panchkula, Haryana  
Ashok & Usha Sachdev Sponsorship at Bal Niketan.  
Anju (right) is a 7th grade student, and is Pooja's younger sister.



If you would like to sponsor a child in India, please contact the Editor. INSAF has good experience with at least 4 organizations for the above children. Costs vary depending on the location and whether you prefer to make an annual or a one-time contribution.

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## VED CHAUDHARY NAMED TO NEW JERSEY ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPT POST

Ved Chaudhary has been appointed assistant commissioner in the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection in the administration of New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine.

Ved, a long-time INSAF supporter and Life Member, will be responsible for several divisions in the Department of Environment such as finance and budget, human resources, information resource management, occupational safety, health, general services/property management, offices of Equal Opportunity and Controller. Ved assumed his new post in April this year.



— INDIA WEST  
May 5, 2006

## SHRI SAMARTH EDUCATION SOCIETY (Regd.)

Bandrekarwadi, Jogeshwari (E), Mumbai - 400 060. • Tel. No : 2830 03 17

### श्री समर्थ एज्युकेशन सोसायटी (रजि.)

बांद्रेकरवाडी, जोगेश्वरी (पूर्व), मुंबई - ४०० ०६०.

सदस्य क्र :	दिनांक :
श्री समर्थ विद्यालय (साथनिक विभाग) बांद्रेकरवाडी, जोगेश्वरी (पूर्व), मुंबई - ४०० ०६०.	October 6, 2006 Dr. Bhavender Paul Sharma, Ph.D. INSAF (Indian Schools Alumni & Friends) c/o 3005 Del Ray Street San Mateo, CA 94403 USA
श्री समर्थ विद्यालय (तज्जिनिकेसन) मेघवाडी, जोगेश्वरी (पूर्व), मुंबई - ४०० ०६०.	Dear Sir,  We wish to inform you regarding current status of our proposed building project. The necessary paper work & other official documents have been obtained by us from Municipal Authorities.  As present schedule the Architect appointed for the project has submitted his plans for our consideration and will be presented to Municipal authorities for their approval.  We are also looking for a suitable building where our classes will be relocated once the old building is demolished & construction is commenced.  We are greatful for your donation of US \$ 2500 (17February 2005- US \$1250 Rs. 54075/- & 20 January 2006 US\$ 1250 Rs. 55061/- ) Sir, as we have already inform you that due to water logging during July 2005 we utilize Rs. 10000/- from your funds coordinated with Rotary Club of Bombay Film City for distribution of books & note books to the affected childrens & we hope to receive your continued blessings for the benefit of our students. Thanking you!
श्री समर्थ कनिष्ठ महाविद्यालय (कला आणि वाणिज्य) मेघवाडी, जोगेश्वरी (पूर्व), मुंबई - ४०० ०६०.	 Dr. M. D. Valanju President Shri Samarth Education Society Bandrekar wadi, Jogeshwari, (E.) Mumbai 400060.
श्रीमती लक्ष्मीबाई वळज्ज प्राथमिक विद्यालय (प्राथमिक विभाग) बांद्रेकरवाडी, जोगेश्वरी (पूर्व), मुंबई - ४०० ०६०.	
शिवुविहार मंदिर (मालवाडी) बांद्रेकरवाडी, जोगेश्वरी (पूर्व), मुंबई - ४०० ०६०.	

**SHRI SAMARTH EDUCATION SOCIETY** in Mumbai is planning to construct a 3-story building which will include an auditorium in addition to several classrooms and a few offices. The estimated cost of the project is about \$335,000. About \$3,750 have been contributed so far by Raj & Padmashri Lad with support from Ashok & Darshan Mehan, and Bhav & Kaye Sharma. Obviously more is needed. The Society educates over 2,200 students at various levels of studies.

## DEER HILL FOUNDATION

Deer Hill Foundation, based in Mancos, Colorado, promotes cultural diversity through scholarships and program development because they believe that the best future, for all of us, lies in a greater understanding of our differences and a celebration of our shared journey. DHF has long-standing friendships in the Navajo, Hopi, Zuni, and Ute Nations. DHF selects youth groups to live with Native American families and work with them on service projects important to their traditional ways of life. Conservation service is also an important part of DHF's work.

Drs. Ashok & Hema Varma have sent a contribution of \$5,000 to support the work of the Deer Hill Foundation.

## BHULPUR SHIKSHA SAMITI, UP

**Dr. Ram Chaudhari's** exemplary and long-sustaining efforts in supporting the Bhulpur Shiksha Samiti in Bhulpur, Etawah District, UP, a small village of less than 1,000, have continued this year. A total of \$6,280 has been sent this year by Ram and his friends/family to the Bhulpur Shiksha Samiti as of the time of this Newsletter.

## ASHA—Ray of Hope

ASHA—Ray of Hope is a non-profit and community-based anti-domestic violence organization based in Columbus, Ohio. It supports and counsels victims of domestic violence in Ohio, especially in the South Asian community. Drs. Ashok & Hema Varma have sent a contribution of \$4,000 to help support the work.

## MOUNT CARMEL FOUNDATION

Mount Carmel Foundation is a Columbus, Ohio based foundation dedicated to the support of community health via several programs:

- ♦ Free health care for the under served
- ♦ Guidance & help for women in making informed choices
- ♦ Education & Fitness services for seniors
- ♦ Hospice & Palliative care for terminally ill patients
- ♦ Medical and Nursing Education
- ♦ Library of health information for the community

Drs. Ashok & Hema Varma have sent a contribution of \$5,000 to help support the work.

## ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS

The Rotary Club of Madras is the oldest Rotary Club in South India having been founded in 1929. The Club has several community service activities underway in the low-income tenements in Chennai and its suburbs. One such project is the education of children in these communities. Drs. Ashok & Hema Varma have sent a contribution of \$4,000 to help support the effort.

## KIDS WITH CAMERAS

"Kids with Cameras" organization teaches the art of photography to marginalized children in communities around the world. They use photography to capture the imaginations of children, to empower them, building confidence, self-esteem and hope. The award winning movie "Born Into Brothels" was made through this concept. Drs. Ashok & Hema Varma have sent a contribution of \$2,000 to help support the effort.

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## PROJECT AKSHARA IN MYSOORU

**Arun and Padma Cariappa** are supporting the Pratham organization in Mysore with the goal of educating children in the slums of Mysore (renamed Mysooru as of Nov 1). The Cariappas have raised over \$6,500 for this worthy effort. The funds will be sent soon after the completion of certain formalities in India.

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## SARASWATHY VIDYALAYAM, EANGANDIYUR, KERALA

**Vasu and Lalitha Vasudevan** have a wonderfully inspiring dream. They and their friends have a goal to raise \$75,000 over the next 3 years to complete and grow a school into a "Kerala Nalanda". The school is located in Eangandiyur, which is about 75 miles from Kochi, and is managed by the Deenadayal Educational and Cultural Charitable Trust.

The Vasudevans have sent \$13,300 this year to support this effort.

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## OSDAV SCHOOL, KAITHAL, HARYANA

This year's Late Sh. Milkhi Ram and Late Smt. Kesra Devi Gulla Scholarship of Rs. 5,303 at the OSDAV School has been awarded again to Ashima Gandhi, now a student of class X. The scholarship was set up by **Manju and the late Bindi Chexal**.

As reported in an earlier Newsletter, an amount equivalent to Rs. 60,931 was sent at the end of Year 2005 to the OSDAV school in Bindi Chexal's memory by Manju and a few of Bindi's friends. A 10-member staff committee awarded the funds on July 31, 2006 to 21 students from the 6th to 12th grades at the school as full or partial tuition or school fee waivers.

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## S.D. Higher Secondary School, Hoshiarpur, Punjab

Founding members Surinder & Nirmal Maheshwary have decided to honor the memory of respected Late Smt. Dwarka Devi with a scholarship at the Hoshiarpur school. A contribution of \$235 has been sent by the Maheshwaris to the school which Surinder once attended.

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## Govt. School, Banbhouri, Punjab

Long-time member Ravi Manrao and former President Sudershan Bhateja have sent \$3,224 to the school at Banbhouri (near Ludhiana) to help upgrade the educational facilities. Sudershan may be able to visit the School early in 2007 to follow-up on the project.

## ADIVASI CHILD EDUCATION, LATHAKHAMAN, JHARKHAND

In Lathakhaman/Bhagachata, Jharkhand, Dr. Subhash Chandra, who is a 1967 Physics Ph.D. from Caltech and now retired after a long professional career in the US, runs a school through his Village Hope Foundation. The foundation is dedicated to the education of over 300 children. A check for \$5,000 has been sent recently with the sponsorship of the Kundras.

A recent news is that Holon Baa, the school's best teacher and an exceptionally honest man, received an offer (with higher pay) from a Govt. school. But, when Dr. Chandra told him that if Baa left, the school will have to be closed, Baa decided to decline the Govt. school offer, without asking for more money. Dr. Chandra has decided to raise Holon Baa's salary but this is indicative of the commitment teachers and the village people have towards their school.

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## PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS DONATE BOOKS

A group of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, officially called INDIA X, who served in India during the sixties, organized a reunion in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. As a service project, they decided to send some books to schools in India. Individual members purchased 13 books suitable for school children of various class levels.

INSAF's Kaye Sharma, a member of INDIA X, coordinated the project along with long-time INSAF supporter Raj Lad, who has kindly agreed to carry the books to India. Destinations: Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh.

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## WALJI RAPAR PROJECT, GUJARAT

In 2001, a major earthquake hit the Kutch - Bhuj area of Gujarat. It was one of two deadliest earthquakes to hit India in its recorded history. About 20,000 people were killed, 166,000 injured, and 600,000 left homeless. INSAF completed a project in 2001-2002 to build a 2-room school in Mithapur village in the Rapar Taluka in cooperation with two India NGOs.

Now in 2006, the Walji sisters (Dr. Laila Alidina, Naseem Walji, Perviz Walji, Nargis Walji, Raziya Gulamhussein, and Nasrin Jivani) have decided to honor the memory of their parents, the respected late Hasham and the late Daulatkhanu Adam Walji, by providing access to education for migrant children. Under this project, 42 migrant children will be provided early stage education by trained Bal Mitras (Friends of Children) as a first step towards entering main stream education. A contribution of \$1,000 has been sent to initiate the project; a second contribution of a similar amount is planned for early 2007 after completion of the first phase.





Above: A cultural program by Ramalingapuram school children (Sep 30, 2006)

Below: Medical camp conducted by Govt. Primary Health Center doctor T. Neelakanteswara Rao & his staff. The camp served 187 people (Oct 10, 2006)



వీడియో వేరు = గొడ్లెళ్ళా పులక్ష్మి 2/10/06  
 5. వతరణతి M.P.U.P. సూపర్ (18/20)  
 రామ లింగా పురం  
 వ్యాజ్ఞ రచన  
 ఆశయం :- మన పాఠశాలకు అడుగుపు తరగతి ఆవసరమే. ఎందుకంటే  
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 మళ్ళీ ఉద్దేశ్యము  
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 గది ఉండాలి.

**UPDATES FROM THE VILLAGE ADOPTION PROJECT**

A small group of INSAF families in Northern California, which informally calls itself the “Palo Alto Group” because many of them work in Palo Alto, along with two other INSAF families, has “adopted” a small village, Ramalingapuram, with the intent of a long-term commitment.

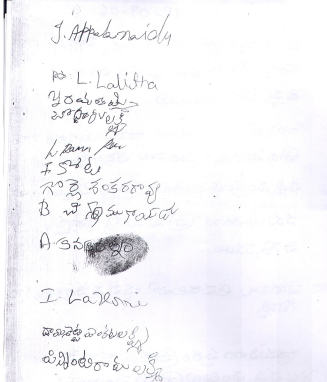
Ramalingapuram is near Chipurupalli in Andhra Pradesh, where Sodhana, an award winning Non- Governmental Organization is based. Sponsors are: **Gopal & Shibani Chotani, Jay & Shashi Shetty, Manoj & Maneesha Shrivastv, AJ & Thankamma Poulose, Raj & Padmashri Lad, Joginder & Meera Kundra, Ashok & Darshan Mehan, and Bhav & Kaye Sharma.**

A project support of \$1,200 sent at the end of 2005 has provided the following activities for 2006:

- ◆ 8 workshops for women’s awareness
- ◆ 2 cultural awareness functions
- ◆ 1 medical camp
- ◆ 1 part-time teacher

For 2006, the target is to raise \$4,400, of which \$3,200 will add a classroom building at the village school in 2007. In an essay (in Telugu as shown on the left, bottom), fifth grader Bhagyalakshmi Gorala writes: “just as every person needs oxygen to live, every class needs a classroom”. She and 7th grader B. Sanyasi Rao gave this and 12 other reasons why the additional classroom is needed.

Right: Signatures by Ramalingapuram Sarpanch Lakshmanah & other local people on a Sep 18, 2006 memorandum in Telugu to endorse the building expansion project.



On a related note, INSAF members Santosh Chokhani, Ashok & Darshan Mehan, with some support from Bhav & Kaye Sharma, also provide additional support to Sodhana. Through this other support, 11 talented students were paid small stipends to help continue their studies, and small levels of medical cost assistance were given to a few deserving families during 2005.