

## COMMUNITY NEWS



### Violin recital by teenage Aishwarya

■ **LONG BEACH, CALIF.:** 13-year-old Aishwarya Venkataraman presented a violin arangetram in Carnatic style. She was accompanied on the mridangam by Vellore Ramabhadran. Christopher Steinhauer, Superintendent, Long Beach Unified School District attended the concert as the chief guest, under the tutelage of violin legend T.N. Krishnan.

### Tamil Meet focuses on the Chola period

■ **BERKELEY, CALIF.:** Center for South Asia Studies held its 2nd Annual Tamil Conference on April 22 and 23 at University of California. An array of international scholars attended the gathering and presented research papers on the "Time of the Cholas: 900-1300 C.E.". The experts included Daud Ali from England's School of Oriental and Asian Studies, Jennifer Clare and George L. Hart from U.C. Berkeley, Vidya Dehejia from

the Columbia University and Richardson Freeman from the University of Michigan.

### M.S. Sheela's vocal recital on May 13

■ **LAKEWOOD, CALIF.:** The South Indian Music Academy will present a Carnatic music recital by M.S. Sheela on May 13 at Hoover Middle School Auditorium. She will be accompanied by Nishant Chandran on violin and Dattatreya Sarma on mridangam.

### 3rd I's session on experimental cinema

■ **SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.:** With a view to increase interest in experimental cinema within the South Asian community and beyond, non-profit group 3rd I on April 30 held an interactive session on the history, theory and aesthetics of South Asian experimental films. "The Experimental Eye on 3rd I" held at the Artists Television Access (ATA) here saw two local

South Asian filmmakers and scholars present a class on South Asian experimental films.

Ashish Chadha pursuing PhD at Stanford University spoke on the history of experimentation in Indian cinema. Kirthi Nath, who teaches at Bay Area Video Coalition (BAVC), concentrated on how films by and about people of color, women and queer people use experimental and hybrid filmmaking strategies to express and document complicated and often untold stories.

### NDM's dance show on May 14

■ **REDONDO BEACH, CALIF.:** NDM Dance Productions will present Love Letters, a dance drama set to popular Bollywood music at Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center on May 14. The concert is directed and choreographed by Nakul Dev Mahajan. For details visit [www.ndmdance.com](http://www.ndmdance.com).

### Canoga Park School show on May 12

■ **CANOGA PARK, CALIF.:** The Desi Club of the Canoga Park High School will present a program showcasing multicultural America on May 12. The evening will feature an ethnic fashion show, a slide show, dances and a play. Gates open at 6 p.m. Tickets: \$5.00. For details call: Vandana Kumar: 818-451-6575

### Jagjit Singh to perform on May 13

■ **LONG BEACH, CALIF.:** Super Entertainment Inc. will present a ghazal recital by Jagjit Singh at Terrace Theater on May 13. The program will start at 7.30 p.m. For details visit: [www.superentertainmentinc.com](http://www.superentertainmentinc.com)

### Hammer Museum's Music Fest on May 13

■ Abhiman Kaushal and Shujaat Khan will be directing a musical ensemble of UCLA students as part of Hammer Museum's Spring Festival of World Music on May 13. This is a free concert and will start at 2 p.m. Details on [www.hammer.ucla.edu](http://www.hammer.ucla.edu).

### Deepika Gehani's show on May 14

■ **BEVERLY HILLS, CALIF.:** Saffron International is organizing a fashion show of clothes designed by Indian designer Deepika Gehani at Gaylord-India Restaurant on May 14.

### Upamanyu reads English August

■ **BERKELEY, CALIF.:** Sahitya Akademi award winning author Upamanyu Chatterjee read from his novel, *English August: An Eng-*

*lish Story*, at the Black Oak Books on April 30 and May 1 at Cody's here. The event was well received by the audience and one of the attendees said, "Its refreshing to meet an author who is genuinely funny and has an insight into everyday life of a current urban Indian."

An inspired and hilarious satire, *English August* is a timeless story of self-discovery. It is the story of Agastya, a child of the Indian elite who, upon graduation, joins the ranks of the Indian government and is sent to a provincial town, renowned only for being India's hottest. The story traces Agastya's new life in the Indian back-country, from his amusing and often eccentric colleague, to his sexual fantasies and capacity for drinking. Agastya's efforts to figure out a place in this world is faltering and fraught with comic missteps.

### Dhamaal Collectives 7th anniversary

■ **SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.:** Dhamaal Electronic Collective celebrated its 7th anniversary with a concert on April 29 at ClubSix here. For six years now, Dhamaal has been fusing electronica with South Asian music and for past three years, they have been performing at Club Six. The anniversary performances included DJ Cheb-i-Sabbah (Six Degrees), Mitch Hyare (Dhol), Jimmy Little (Bhangra), Kush Arora, Maneesh the Twister, Janaka Selekt, Samba Guisse on the mic, Video DJs Skip Intro and El Diablo, and Shabi Farooq. Adding a sufi sound was Riffat Sultana accompanied by Shiraz Ali Khan (guitar) and Ferhan (tabla).

### NeoAccel gets \$4 m funding from India

■ **SILICON VALLEY, CALIF.:** NeoAccel, an innovator of next-generation internet security solutions, has received a \$4 million in funding from Baring Private Equity Partners' India Fund. San Jose-based NeoAccel said it will use the money to push sales and marketing. Founded in 1984, Baring Private Equity Partners manages about \$3 billion in funds under management. "Our investment will enable NeoAccel to accelerate broad market adoption of its SSL VPN-Plus as the only network security software platform to overcome the fundamental technology flaw in conventional SSL VPNs that hampers widespread enterprise adoption," said Subbu Subramaniam, Investment Partner for Baring Private Equity Partners India (BPEP India).

### Sharpcast secures \$13.5 m funding

■ **PALO ALTO, CALIF.:** Sharpcast, a software developer to help simplify the way people access, share and back-up digital content under multiple platforms has secured \$13.5 million in Series B funding. Sigma Partners led the investment,

with Series A investors Draper Fisher Jurvetson and Selby Venture Partners participating. Sharpcast Founder & CEO Gibu Thomas said, "From the beginning, Sharpcast has been intensely focused on creating a user experience that is simple and intuitive enough for average consumers. Today we are pleased to announce the support of these great partners who share our vision."

The Series B funding will be used to accelerate development of the Sharpcast services suite and to enable growth to support the roll-out of its offerings beginning later this spring.

### HR firms UltraLink, Secova to merge

■ **COSTA MESA, CALIF.:** Human Resources management firm UltraLink is merging with its NJ counterpart Secova. The new company will be headed by Secova's CEO Venkat Tadanki. The HQ of the new company will be based in Costa Mesa with centers in New Jersey and Chennai. "This merger brings two proven, effective organizations with a single focus on being the premier HRO services provider," said UltraLink CEO Vince Sheeran.

### INTEL to invest \$1 bn in India for PC use

■ **SANTA CLARA, CALIF.:** Intel Corp. plans to invest \$1 billion over the next five years to promote the use of computers in schools, cafes and other public spots in developing countries. The initiative, announced by CEO Paul Otellini, builds on a three-pronged strategy of increasing the availability of low-cost PCs, making it easier to access the Internet and getting more computers into the classrooms in the poorest countries.

"Developing countries made up about 38 percent of the world's PC sales in 2005," said Anand Chandrasekhar, a Senior VP (Sales and Marketing). Chandrasekhar forecasts low-income countries to account for about 47 percent by 2009.

### Alliance to sell Systems Solution unit

■ **SANTA CLARA, CALIF.:** Alliance Semiconductor Corp., founded by EVP C.N. Reddy, has agreed to sell its systems solution unit for \$5.8 million to Ottawa-based Tundra Semiconductors. Tundra Semiconductors has agreed to absorb 50 employees from the Santa Clara division and Hyderabad.

### Dr Mahendra Rao is Invitrogen VP

■ **CARLSBAD, CALIF.:** Dr Mahendra Rao has been appointed VP Research for stem cells and Regenerative medicine, at Invitrogen Corp. Dr Rao is the author of over 100 research papers and was a senior investigator at NIH Lab of Neuroscience.

